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'THE ORNAMENT' OF CRICKET



Fact file Of a Legend

—Anirban Paul

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—Devoted to those poor fellows of the future who will not be able to watch the classical and impeccable batting display of Sunil Manohar Gavaskar any more.

Acknowledgments

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2. Cricket Association of Bengal.

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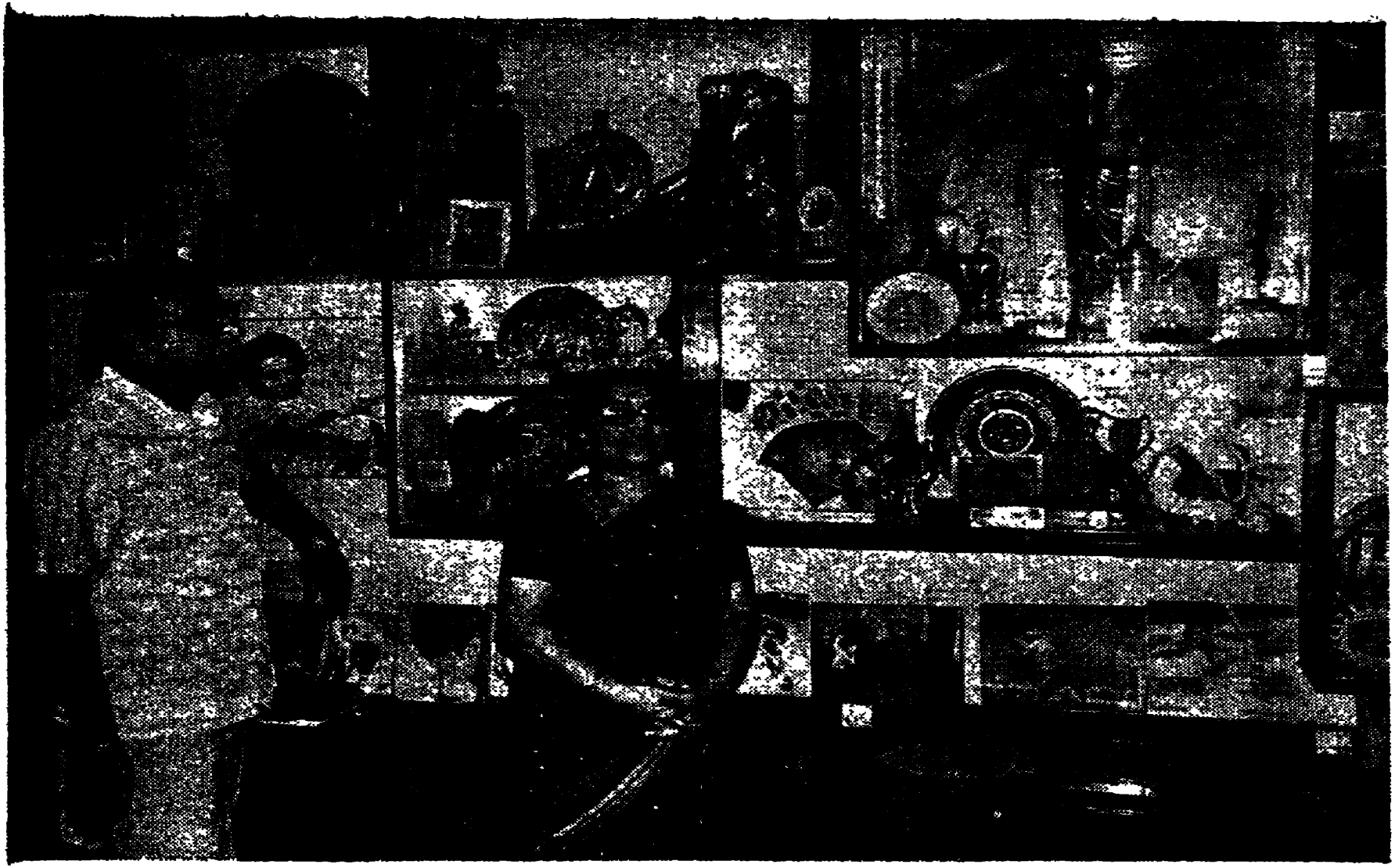
7. Different sports and general Magazines of India,

8. All those persons being quoted in thisbook.

9. And to all of my well wishers.



When two legends met—Don Bradman with Sunny.

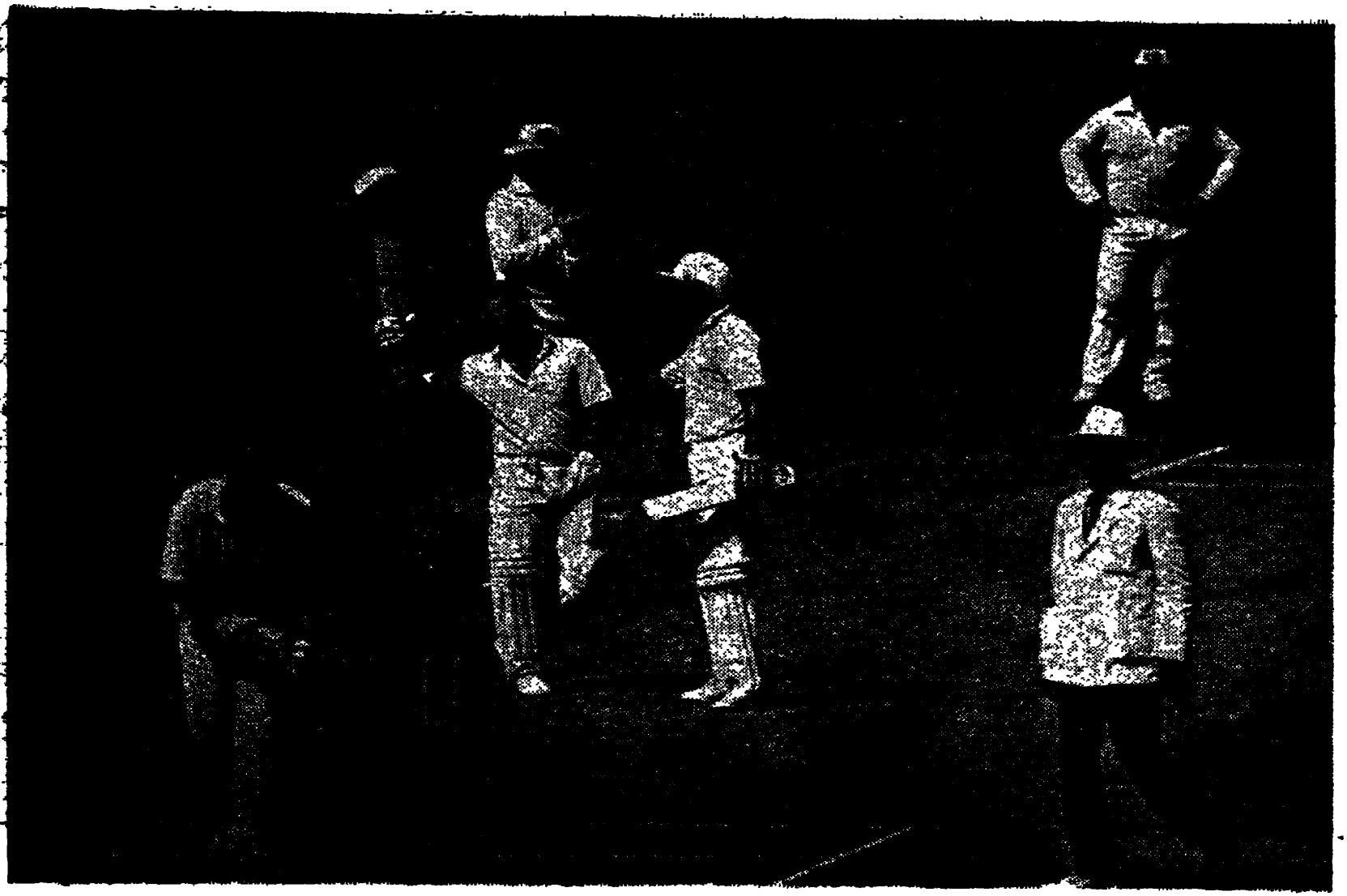


His proud parents infront of the galaxy of prizes at Madhvi, Dadar,



If you have the inclination to send me a bouncer, I have my bat to answer with.

Hooking Marshall to equalise with Don's tally of 29 centuries.



After his 33rd century at Bombay. He was so consistent in century making,



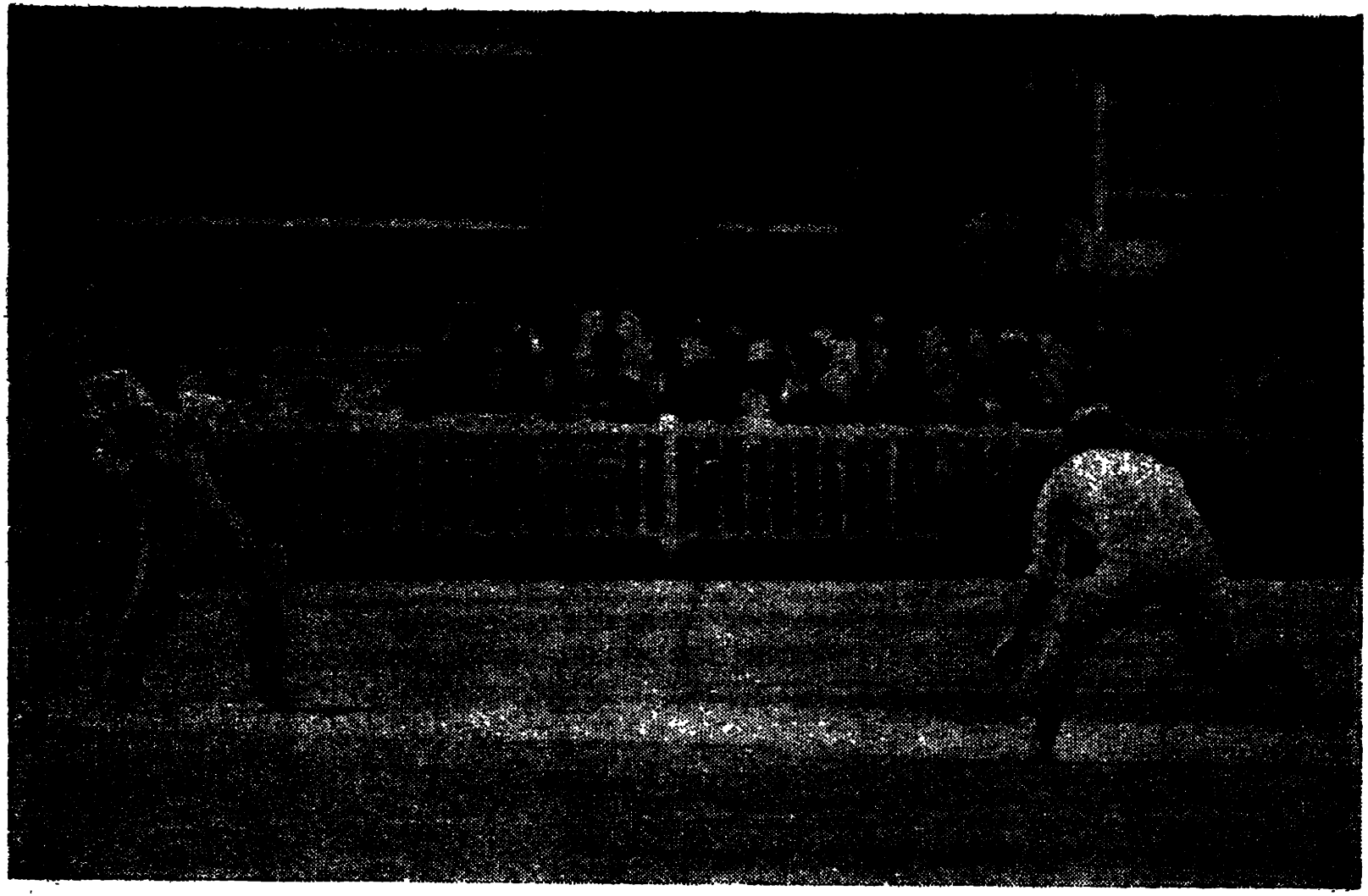
—that the Indian Cricket Board could not keep pace with the frequency. They gave him a momento with thirty two diamonds while he had already registered his 33rd on the same day.



The jubilant family with a couple of stars. From left Kabita, Gundappa Viswanath, Marsheniel, Sunil with Rohan, Meenal Gavaskar, Keshab Gavaskar, Nutan and Rajnish Bahel.



Let's go for run. On the way to complete his 10,000th lap in test cricket.



The last but one episode of Gavaskar Saga. The legendary display of 188 runs in the Bi-Centenary match of M.C.C. at Lords'. The Ground deserves that.



The century—which he had longed for. The Reliance Cup match at Nagpur.

Corrigendums

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From the core of my Heart

A cold night of July, 1971 at Adelaide airport, Australia, some cricketers were waiting for their Perth flight. An old man came there to get himself introduced with the little young one of the lot, as he was ready to spend a sleepless night for that particular introduction.

That young man suddenly found Sir Don Bradman in front of him and he simply became very humble.

Sir Don wanted to observe his own replica—The Don with a new sun, in Sunny Gavaskar. So it was like as filling a new sparkling goblet with old tasty wine.

Though it was not a furse for the world's greatest batsman of all time because of the glorious debut of Sunil in test cricket. He had simply washedout the record of "Black Bradman" George Headley, after scoring 774 runs in 4 tests against the formidable Carecbeans on their home soil in that year.

And that was the first step of scanning the Little Master by Sir Don Bradman which he had finished with an ultimate remark "The Ornament of Cricket" after prolong analysis.

Sunil has a unique world record. He holds the maximum numbers of world records, achieved by a person.

From the very first day of his cricket carrear he accepted the challenge of enemy bowlers with shear determination and full concentration. As a test opener from India he gave solidity to each innings against the deadly fast and spin attacks all over the world and to-day he is not only a batsman, not only a cricketer, but a phenomenon, a legend of the game, a perfect technician per excellence. apart from those small contributions of other Indian sport stallwarts, he gave us the full voice required to remain in the world sport arena. To-day sports people all over the world, even of non-cricket playing countries know India in sport only for him.

Tiger Pataudi once told, "Test cricket highlights slightest flaw in batsman's technique and once this has been exposed, the world's top bowlers will exploit it with nagging persistence". It has been revealed from Sunil's records that he has exploited those fellow bowlers rather than being exploited by them.

His dedication and determination makes him successful in every sphere of life, as a batsman, as a fielder, as a captain, as a man and even as a writer. He has the most matured cricket brain in India.

He took himself off from the middle of a cricket ground with a lot of cricket still in himself and left us with the question, "why now" rather than "why not."

I personnally got immense pleasure by watching or listening his batting. Only Sir Navile Cardas could have the true description about his greatness. I am sure that there will be cricketers in future with better batting records, but none will be able to match the homogeneous mixture of his determination, dedication and technique of the game at a time.

This book is my hertiest tribute to the Grandmaster of the game. I shall remain proud for ever as I have the opportunity to watch Sunil Manohar Gavaskar in action. In this book I have tried to exibit some facts of his life. and I shall be happy if cricketers of the future get some lessons from those facts to perfect their games, their lives.

Sunny at a glance

Name :—Sunil Manohar Gavaskar.

Nick Name :—Sunny

Date of birth :—10th July 1949 at 8:42 P. m.

Born at :—Purandare Hospital, Chowpatti, Bomay.

Birth Place :—Bhagirathirai Building, Chikalwadi, Central Bombay.

Father's Name :—Mr. Manohar Keshab Gavaskar.

Mather's Name :—Mrs. Meenal Gavaskar (Mantri).

Brother :—None.

Sister :—Two, (Nutan and Kabita)

Height :—5 feet 4¼ inches.

Eye Colour :—Dark Brown.

Colour of Hair :—Brownish Black.

Star Focus ;—Cancer.

Educational Qualification :—B. A.

Name of the School :—St. zavier's High School (from 1955).

Name of the College :—St Zavier's College (from 1966)

Name of his wife :—Mrs. Marshneil Gavaskar (Mehrotra)

Date of Marriage :—23rd September, 1974.

Name of the children :—Only son, born in 1976 and named Rohan Jayaviswa Gavaskar.

First Appointment :—Public Relation officer, A. C. C., Bombay.

Second and current appointment :—Executive officer, PRO, Nirlon Synthetic fibres and Chemicals Ltd.

Office Address :—254-B, Dr. Anni Besant Rd.

Bombay :—400 025.

Own Cars : (1) Premier President (M R H 3456)

(2) Maruti (Presented) (M A R 6000)

(3) Honda (Presented by British Journalists)

(4) Contessa (Presented.)

Aim in childhood :—To be a doctor.

His Favourite food :—Nothing particular.

His Favourite Drink :—Thums up.

His Favourite Wine & Cig :- Do not smoke, defrain from any wine.

His Favourite Writer :—None.

His Favourite Reading item :—Fiction Novels.

His Favourite Cinema Star :—Paul Newman, Dustin Hopman.

His Favourite Singer :—Sandip patil.

His Favourite Holiday resort :—Mousouri.

His Favourite Game (other than cricket) :—Badminton.

His Favourite Games in childwood (other than cricket, :—Table Tennis, Boxing.

His Favourite Sport stars :—Prakash Padukone, Illi Nastase.

His Favourite Animal :—Nothing.

His Favourite Bird :—Peacock.

His Favourite Colour :—Black.

His Favourite Hobby :—To copy somcone's activity.

How he spends his off time :—"Can't be printed" (as he told)

Like Most :—To sleep.

Dislike Most :—To undergo training

Superstition :—To wear something new before a test match.

Feels afraid about :—Snake, Dog.

Hate most :—A lier, Insicerity.

Who encouraged in childhood :—Mother.

Best advisors :—Father & Wife.

Best friend :—Milind Rege, Hemant Woingenkar.

Most respected persons of life :—Parents.

Acted in a film :—Savli Premachi (Marathi).

Plus point/Minus point of himself :—Everybody knows.

Proud about :—Being an Indian.

Whom wish to see :—The god.

Author of :—Four books, (1) Sunny Days.
(2) Runs'n Ruins.
(3) One day wonders.
(4) Idols.

Formerly Editor of :—"The Indian Cricketer" a cricket monthly from Calcutta,

Own Business :—(1) Sunny's Sports Butic (on Share).

(2) Professional Management Group (on share with Mr. Sumedh Shah at Pune)

Awards won :—(1) Arjuna in 1977.

(2) Padma Bhusana in 1979.

(3) One of the five crickertes of the year 1980, WISDEN.

First Duty :—To Bat.

Played first for the school :—At the age of 12 in Haris shield, 1961.

Best School Cricketer Award :—in 1965-66.

First cricket club :—Rajasthan Sports club, Bombay.

Second cricket club :—Dadar Union, Mathunga, Bombay.

Luckiest Break :—Selected first for school team.

Debut in first class cricket :—For Vajir Sultan sports.

Club in Moin-ud-Doula Gold Cup at Hydrabad, March 1966.

Debut in Irani Cup :—In 1967-68 for Bombay against Rest of India at Jamshedpur.

Debut in Ranji Trophy :—In 1969-70 against Karnataka, at Brabourne Stadium, Bombay.

Most Memorable moment :—Selected in Indian Team, 1971.

Debut in Test Cricket :—6th March, 1971, at Queens Park Oval, Port of spain of Trinidad in West Indies.

Debut in one day Internatioual :—At Leeds Vs England in 1974

First Century of life :—At the age of 13, Giles Shield.

First Test Run :—Two run of the bowling of V. Holder, which he actually played with his leg guards.

Most Jubilant moment of life :—Beating England in England, at the Oval, 1971.

Most disgusting moment :—Not yet come.

Memorable Match :—Can't remember.

Favourite Ground :—Queen's Pork Oval, Part of Spain, W.I.

Best Captain :—Ajit Wadekar.

Toughest Bowler to face :—All of them.

Favourite fielding position ;—First Slip.

Favourite cricketer :—Rohan Kanhai, M. L. Jaishima.

Youth time Hero :—Rohan Kanhai.

Best Bowling ever seen :—By Chandrashekhar at the Cvel, 1971.

Most perfect batsman ever seen :—Gundappa Viswanath.

His Best Century :—101 at Old Trafford, 1974, Vs Eng.

His Best Innings :—57 Vs Eng. at Old Trafford, 1971.

Favourite Stroke :—Straight Drive.

Best Innings or century ever seen :—By Graham Gooch at Madras, 1981 Vs India.

Best catch taken by him :—Of Lloyd at Ahmedabad, 1983.

Best catch ever seen :—By Solkar at Oval 1974.

Surprised about :—How some records come in his pocket.

Target :—To get Five wickets in an Innings

Wish to be after retirement from Cricket :—Coach for the youngstars.

Present Address :—42, Suriya Apartments, 4th floor.
Sir Pochkanwala Road,
Worli, Bombay-400 025.

Future Address :—
Sports field Co-operative Housing Society.
Plot—9A, 8th Floor.
Worli Sea Face.
Bombay-400 025

The Childhood Days

While enjoying a vacation period at his maternal uncle's house in Chikalwadi, central Bombay, Mr. Sharod Kotnis found a boy during a street cricket session in front of a garage-door. The kid was batting very straight and managed to retain the strike for almost two hours. It was in 1956 and Mr. Kotnis came to know that this, boy was the only son of his friend, Manohar Gavaskar. Manohar Gavaskar informed Mr. Kotnis, that his six year old son, Sunil used to go bed everyday with a cricket bat.

Four years later Mr. Kotnis again found Sunil at the net. He took some brilliant copy book shots against some well known bowlers of Bombay. But Mr. Madhav Mantri became unsatisfied with a particular shot and asked Sunil to perfect it. So he practised the same shot for several times and took himself off the net after the certificate of Mr. Mantri.

Sunil was different from all other collony boys of Chikalwady with his strong determination and vigour to be a cricketer. He used to take every shot with equal importance.

Millind Rege, perhaps Sunil's closest friend confessed that on those street cricket sessions Sunil would be unconquered for three hours with his bat while all others would never last more than 15 minutes. So they made a rule that while for the rest of them three stumps in front of the garage door

would suffice, Sunil would be out if the ball hit any part of the entire garage door. Still he managed to remain un beaten as he hated to be declared out. So his friend decided to appeal together and at that stage he used to walk out with his own bat (which was the only instrument among them). So one day out of shear frustation they broke his bat. Around his school days he was terribly hot tempered. But to save window glasses around the ground (street) he used to keep his shots along the ground and straight which helped him a lot in future.

He also used to play good table tennis and whenever the senior students wanted to restrict him from playing table tennis, he would calmly mount the table and sleep on it, thereby preventing any further proceeding. But once he defeated Dilip Lakhani, Junior National T. T. Champion at that time (and now Sunil's Tax Consultant) and many T. T. experts appreciated his style.

As a child he loved to watch freestyle wrestling and his room had fancy poster and pictures of many international wrestlers.

Sunil made his cricket debut in the drawing room of Chikalwadi flat. His mother used to bowl to him and one day he hammered a ball upishly. It went straight to his mother's nose and the boy became very shocked. Perhaps

after that incident he always tried to keep his short along the ground.

Talking of little Sunil's interest in cricket, a humorous incident could be given here. Sunil was walking with his mother when he saw a board advertising for an "Ideal Night School". He immediately asked his mother what it meant. When told it was a school for people who could not study during the day, Sunil promtly told that he would like to enrol himself in that school instead of St Zavier's School, so that he could play cricket the whole day.

Sunil's father was a college and office club cricketer and used to bring bats home for oiling after every match. Sunil used to watch the intricate process and started to watch cricket match with his father. At that age he never feeled bore and used to watch till the end of the match.

He became very excited after seeing his maternal uncle. Mr. Madhav Mantri) blazers. (He is a former test cricketer) and once he asked for one of them. Mr. Mantri dold him, 'To wear one, son you need to earn it". He was presented with a bat by his father, which had Sir Len Hulton's autograph on it. He scored thirty not out in his school cricket debut with the same, but he became disappointed with the next day newspaper's remark, "G. Sunil 30 not out. "

Mr, Milind Rege once said, "I shall blame the man as a

licr, if he demands himself as the coach of Sunil. But he valued every suggestion he received, it may be given by a senior or may be from a junior.

One day Mr. Kamal Bhandarkar came to his house while he was about to leave for a cricket match. Mr. Bhandarkar asked him to show his stance and batting grip. and advised for a little modification. Sunny still respects his advice.

Again in a discourse of concentration, Mr. Bhandarkar asked to draw the picture of a cricket ball and to paste the same on the wall and stare at it for half an hour each day. Sunil immediately followed that, which helped him a lot.

Once little Sunil was very eager to see a test match at Brabourne Stadium between India and Bob Simpson's Aussies. He had morning school till 10-30 am. But as he desparately wanted to enjoy the game from the begining, so his father allowed him with a ticket. Next day he went to school with his father's remark, "Headaccke, cause for absence," written on his progress card. The principal immediately asked him, "Sunil how was the game ?" Sunil replied, "Nice" and simply blurted out the details of the match. His father was asked to meet the principal the following day and Sunil had to promise for truth, which he was maintened through out his life.

Just after the first century of his life, Mr Cotnis asked him for a photograph for the next day sport's column of

"Times of India." He had no picture except one in his school identy card. But he refused to give the card and said that he could not attend the school next day without it as per his school rules. One of his team-mate came to Times office with the card and returned with it after the required process-work. In those days he used to report Mr. Kotnis after every century he made From those school days he was paid with 10 Rupees by his father for every century he made. which inspiredh im most.

But he used to continue his studies beside of his match schedules very keenly. He was very emotional and sensitive as a child. There was a beggar who used to come and play the harmonium in Chikalwadi compound. to earn some coins. Sunil would stop playing, start dancing to the harmonium tune and collect money from his neighbours for that beggar. He has all sort of respects for his parents and elders. Before every match he used to pray in the "puja-

In those colony days he used to act superby as Lord Krishna or as a Kasmiri. boy in costume parade and as the lovable Chandu' in the famous Marathi paly 'Sastang Pranam' As a Kid he used to take all his friends to the near by 'Sasani Irani Cafe' to have 'Soda Lemons' after a game.

He came from a middle class simple conservative family and from those childhood days he used to lead a very simple, disciplined but determined life to proceed towards the aim of his life, which lead him to be a great man of world cricket history.

The Boy "Bradman"

No one really paid much attention to Sunil's career as a cricketer till he was chosen to represent the Indian schools against the London schoolboys under Eknath Solkar's captaincy in which he scored runs in plenty. Then his family realised that some bigher things are in store for him.

Recently, Milind Rege confessed that his fellow contemporaries of the youth time would become great players even with one percent of dedications for the game what he did in his young age. He would politely excuse himself to leave a party or social gathering in maximum half an hour while his friends would enjoy themselves into the wee hours.

Sunil always valued elder's advice with great importance and unlike other youngstars gave good respect to their suggestions. In a game at Islam Gymkhona ground Sunil got a double century and Vijay Manjrekar happened to be there. Seeing Sunil bat Manjrekar remarked, "Here is a Boy Bradman." Sunil had taken some square and let cut shots as he was a tremendous cutter in those days. During the break, Manjrekar suggested Sunil that a good opener should not play those shots till his half century, and so he gave up his intension to play those shots from his next fixtures.

And he used to maintain a diary for those valuble suggestions and also for those humerous incidents on tours.

Once during a west zone inter-zonal university match at Pune, he organised a series of lectures where men like Prof. D. B. Deodhar, Mr. Kamal Bhandarkar and D. B. Nimbalkar spoke to the yongstars on the different aspects of the game. Sunil was so attentive that he realiscd them all over only after everyone started applauding.

He was always been a young modest man. After flooring three catches in an university match in Pune, he look himself off from the slip and changed his position though he was the captain of the team.

After the Ceylon tour of 1969-70 Sunil almost had a disastrous Ranji Debut—a duck. He became a real flop on two consecutive matches. This third Ranji match was a crucial one for him against Rajasthan and wicket keeper Sunil Benjamin dropped him in the first innings and he scored 114 runs. Though luck allways favours a hard worker, parhaps Sunil Benjamine is responsible for a bright career of Sunil Gavaskar. It would take another two years for making his test debut if Benjamine would have the sitter in hand.

From his young age he always tried to become a source of encouragement for his colleages and presented Vangsarkar with a brand new Duncun Fearnley bat for a handred scored in the Irani Tro play at Nagpur. He keeps that habt till now. At that stage he changed his hot temparament and became very polite and modest.

He was also very superstitious in his young age. In one of the university matches at Pune he suddenly started singing "Achcha to hum chalte hai" (a very popular Hindi song at that time) while going to open an innings and as he remained unbeaten at lunch so he kept singing that particular song before opening any innings for years.

Once when he was playing an university match at Pune, rang up to wish her sister Nutan on her birthday. As he was unbeaten on 100-odd that day, his mother asked him to continue and break Ajit Wadekar's record university score of 324. Sunil rang up his mother next day to inform his score, 328 only.

From those early days of his career he became a man of ready wit. In the final of Rohinton Baria Trophy between Bombay University and Osmania University the 2nd wicket pair for Bombay was Sunil and Ramesh Nagdev. In the 2nd innings Sudhir Nayak got out cheaply. Osmania had a good leg spinner in Mumtaj Hoosain. Nagdev was in trouble against Hoosain's left arm chinaman. So Sunil out cried, "Don't worry Ramesh, I know the character of those deliveries." He wanted to get Hoosain perplexed. And it became true in the next over. Sunil got the same ball which he forced immediately for four.

Sunil had a good look on the batting style of Conrad Hunt of West Indies in Bombay test in 1956-66 series. Hunt's back

lift, foot work were some elements for him to be copied and he confessed that he had tried to mould his batting on Hunt's style.

Nobody ever coached Sunil. He learned by watching other cricketers and in this, his remarkable powers of observation helped him. He learned that he would score if he could stay at the wicket and experiments with the bowling should be done at nets, not in actual playing conditions. In his young age, he learnrd to treat every delivery as the first one of his innings.

He truly worked hard for his career, and so he became the master of the game.

Different strokes of Test Cricket

After some successful years in domestic arena Sunil became a test cricketer in 1971, the chairman of selection committee Mr. Vijay Marchant proposed his name as an opener for the West Indies tour. Sunil made his debut in test with two runs of Holder, which was actually a leg bye as he confessed later on and remained in that service for seventeen consecutiv years and never looked back.

Sunil was born and had grown up in India where one could neither find a medium fast bowler nor a fast wicket. Yet he had been asked to tackle true fast lowlers at highest level of cricket. It was just like the condition of a Penguin, shifted from South Pole to the hottest region of Africa. But he made the formidable West Indian pace attack very simple with his superb technique and showed the way to handle true fust bowlers for the Indian batsmen. In his coming and with him in herness with G. R. Viswanath India all of a sudden possesed two genuine world class batsmen, who in due course gave India the required depth of batting which was not there before their entry. What emerges almost in totality is the image of a technician per excellence, who was one of the finest user of the Willow on most different wickets in different conditions of any era and probably the leading one of his own category.

Bad patches came in his way several times, but he returned in his game each time because of inherent correctness of his approhch to the life and game.

Sunil had described himself as a hard working efficient craftsman rather than a player of natural talent. Once he said that there was a certain invisible power which gave him the final touch. Without knowing much of it he only tried to do a decent job out of the chance came to his way. May be, but something made an impression to many of the spectators, during the Bombay test in 1987 between India and Australia. It was a delivery from Bruce Reid—6 ft 8½ inches to Gavaskar 5 ft 4¾ inches, bowled short, Sunil made a backfoot contact with the middle of his bat above his head. Marsh at short leg waited expectantly. The ball dropped but did not travel beyond the box of the crease. It lay motionless within two feet of Sunil. God's grace or genius, what would you say.

He had all kind of strokes in his armoury but compelled to curtail them to give India solid starts. At the end of his career he somehow enjoyed his cricket with aggresive strokes.

In 1983 at the net for Delhi test against West Indies, some spectators had insulted him and shouted, "Sunny, there piche Marshall ah raha hai." They wanted to warn him about Marshall's bouncer because of his failure in the previous test. Next day, Sunil replied them with a bang. How he handled Marshall & co. to score his 29th ton was now a history only. He sent them to all corners of the ground.

Again on the deadly spinning track of Bangalore in 1987 he got 96 against Pakistan, what would be remembered as the show of the most correct technique against spin attack.

Sunil's world reputation rested on his ability to excel under pressure. We may recall his 221 at the oval in 1979. At the beginning of India's 2nd innings it was the question of fighting for a tame draw. But Sunil with Chouhan converted that to a open chance for Indian victory. Sir Len Hutton compared that innings with Stan Mackeb's double century at tent bridge in 1938.

In a test match against Pakistan, as I was watching through T.V, it was a delivery from Sarfraj Nawaj to the Little Master. Sarfraj gave a bouncer and Gavaskar ducked. But after ducking he realised that the ball was not of his expected height and would cause a blow on his face. All on a sudden, he draw his head up to let the ball go through to the keeper. He was the best judge of short pitched balls among his contemporaries. Believe it or not, many cricket coaching schools in Australia had given a lesson to their boys about how to leave the bouncer through video clippings of Sunny Gavaskar's technique.

During a test innings Sunil would like to take care of his requirements, the batting gloves, pads etc and would like to remove any difficulty in his own concentration. He would not bat till a slightest movement infront of the sight screen.

In the first test at Old trafford (in 1974 series) he was on the way to century. He found it difficult to look through the left eye because of his long hair. So, he had immediately requested umpire Dicky Bird to cut a few hair, and took his stance only after the operation.

Sunil had a good control over his own temperament on he field. In the 2nd innings of Lord's test (1971), India needed some quick runs to win. F. Engineer pushed a ball of John Snow to the short leg and called Sunil for a quick single. As Gavaskar was approaching towards the batting crease Snow deliberately pushed him with the shoulder and he somehow managed to reach the crease in rolling condition without his bat. But he just controlled himself and recently in a T.V. serial he told that he was thinking to make his ground at that time. Perhaps only once he failed to control his temptation. That was his famous walkout in the Melbourne test in 1980, and perhaps this was due to his lack of form in that series. Being a human he might havesome limit.

He was a good fielder throughout his test career, specially in the first slip position. He had always tried to detect flaws of enemy batsmen from the first slip and conveyed them to bowlers of his own team.

On the field he was the main source of confidence among

his team-mates and always encouraged them, specially the youngstars, with valuable advices.

Throughout the seventeen consecutive years and perhaps for more than one lakh times he took his steady stance in-front of the wicket—legs apart, body bent down, bat and pad closed together, head down—only to face the most formidable and deadly bowling attacks of the cricket history with new balls, only to carry the Indian Cricket on his own shoulder

The Broadest Bat in the Game.

Indian sporting history and infact, general history is littered with stories of heroes who promised to shine but then faded away after a few flattering victories. Gavaskar's shear consistency, is the only exceptional instance.

And if there is a single part of his batting style which accounts for consistent success against the toughest attacks in the world, it is the straightness of his bat. He has a perfect side on stance with equal distribution of his body weight on his feet and there is an inverted 'V' formed between the thumb and first finger of his left hand in the same line of the seam of his bat. Also he has a good normal eye sight to follow balls prior to delivery. Throughout his career he has a sharp shuffle accross the wicket just before the delivery and for that he maintains a good knowledge about the exact position of his off-stump. His backlift comes from the third slip but, at the time of impact the bat is absolutely straight. In his batting style you may find the rhythm of a Ballet dancer, as such he has ample time to decide and take his strokes, and during that he can keep his head still and on the line of the ball.

Though those are the most elementary requirements for such a master batsman but, it is surprising how Sunil manages to show the full face of the blade hanging down in a perfect perpendicular. Indeed he has "The Broadest Bat". of the game.

The broad bat phenomenon does not belong exclusively to the stonewall, defensive brigade, nor is it the necessary trademark of those batsmen who seldom get the bat out of the vertical and into the horizontal plane. But there are few batsmen whose width of bat look wider than the allowable normal size, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches and for bowlers those are seemed to be the proverbial ban doors. Sunil Manohar Gavaskar is on the top of that particular category.

How he became the most successful run-getter of the world ? Because he did the least number of mistakes to judge the line, length and speed of the ball among the batting stallwarts. There were rare occasions when he had played balls on the front foot which were asked to be played on the back foot in the cricket coaching manual. He never took his eyes off from the delivered ball till its final position in the keeper's gloves. That's why he never asked for a helmet against the bouncing staffs.

As a model opener he likes to play his shots within the 'V' infornt of the wicket and leavcs the outgoing balls in copy book fashion at the beginning of his innings. In the Jubilee test at Bombay (1980) he sent a John Lever delivery straight to the gallery with the middle of his bat early in his first innings. and just after that England captain Mike Brearly found Sunil unhappy as he was blamming himself for the lack of patience.

The 1980 Wisden records, "When he sets his sights high, he builds his innings with meticulous craftsmanship, limiting to the strokes he knows best—drives through the covers, past the bowler and between mid-on and mid-wicket. But when he lets his hair down, his range of shots and the power behind them are quite astonisning. So one could hanrly see him throughing his wicket and the perfect arch of his bat during a stroke shows the greatness.

Another good aspect of his batting is his ability to find the gap between fielders. So he can easily spoil the rhythm of the bowling with quick singles and one can't stop him with a pre-planned attack.

But Sunil believes that technique is not the only requirement for a successfull batsman and a good match temperament is also essential. Because he does not believe in showmanship and for him the amount of runs scored is more important than the mode of their accumulation.

The 'Instant' improvisation

Uncertainity, thy name is cricket and one-day cricket or instant cricket is the perfect example of that. It demands quite a different approach to the game than that in test cricket. On a particular day it is the test of the perfect physical and mental condition of a player, required for that type of game.

Test cricket is the acid test of the technique and temperament of a batsman depending on the different phases of five consecutive days in the field. The first duty of a test opener is to build the innings and to lay a solid foundation for his team without taking much risks of heating out each and every delivery, may it be a good length or a loose one, which is obvious for a limited over game. Being a test opener Gavaskar was the player of that particular mould when limited over game begun to claim its so called necessity for the existence of cricket in future.

Gavaskar made his International Limited Over Cricket debut at Leeds of England in 1974 and during the next couple of years he could not match himself with the required improvisation for that type of game as he was basically a test cricketer at that time. Some self-proclaimed cricket pundits rated him incompetent in the abridged version of cricket and they even said that one day cricket was not his cup of tea.

Perhaps Sunil did not like the imitational mode of instant cricket at that time. But he realised that some improvisations were necessary to keep pace with the time to come, to remain as a successful run getter in the one - day cricket history and above all, to serve his country in this particular version of competition also.

What he thought, as happened, was that with the oneday cricket coming in a regular basis at all levels of the game, one did not leave the ball out side of the off-stump as he would do earlier on, because in instant cricket he had to nudge the same ball past for a single and he had to try the ball always working with his bat in that type of game.

Moreover those comments on his so called inadequacy in the one-day game must have irked him and he probably decided to analyse his game and made some minor adjustments, brought out some innovative strokes such as his pulled drive over midwicket. To-day, he had the deligtful experiences of winning 'Man of the match' awards in one-day games. Being a pure test cricketer, he could improvise himself for the one-day fixtures only due to his correctness in technique and shear determination.

You may found his score 36 not-out against England in 60 overs in 1975 Prudendial Cup. But could you imagine the score of the same man against New-Zealand in 1987 Reliance Cup ? It was 103 in just 88 balls with ten fours and three sixes.

Again, he also improved his ground fielding for limited over crieket as he was basically a slip fielder in test cricket. At the age of thirty eight he could outshine a young man in the out field with his interceptions, coverages, pick ups and accurate returns to the keeper. His good fielding had earned him Man of the Series award in 1985 Rothmans Cup at Sharjah and his only catch in 1987 Reliance Cup got second place among eight best catchea of the tournament.

Those improvisations made him one of the leading run getters of India in one-day cricket and all those question-marks over his capacity to cope with the instant format of the game disappeared.

With the "Crown of Thorn" on his head.

Captaincy in cricket—the most responsible and cumbersome job all over the world. In this gambling job, you would have the applauds even from your closest rivals on a victory. But in case of a failure in the very next fixture all would be blaming "No-body." They would simply give you a bad name and would hang you.

In Indian cricket, captaincy is the "Apple of Sodom" Every senior person of the team would wish to take the charge. But after certain failures he would think of it as the crown of thorn, because, the common practice of the people and specially of the selectors is to put the boot on the wrong leg.

From the very first day of his cricket career, Gavaskar had shown himself as a good thinker of the game. He was a keen student of every aspect of criket which lead him to be the most matured cricket brain in Indian history of cricket.

Prior to taking over the stewardship of the national side, Sunil had shown himself as a shrewd pleader for the Bombay and West Zone, as well as the deputy of Bishen Singh Bedi in test cricket. In fact, his opponents in internationol cricket, the bright and perceptive Mike Brearley included—rated him very highly as vice captain and wished him to be quite formidable when fully in charge.

Gavaskar became skipper after his predecessor, Bishen Bedi in 1978 and indeed the Bombay star won the first series as captain against West Indies. But after that the Cricket Control Board started their well known juggling game and Sunil was not retained for the next—the trip to England—because of utterances suggesting that he might be joining Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket. A gain, he was however, re-instated in the very next series against Australia in India, dosed after being drubbed in Pakistan, recalled when his successor Kapil Dev was temporarily thought to be unfit for the job, before retiring in a blaze of glory following India's triumph in the World Championship of Cricket in Australia. But after that at, every critical juncture of the game, we had seen him taking appropriate decisions on behalf of Kapil Dev.

A common practice for self-proclaimed cricket Pundits is to describe Sunil as a defensive captain. They used to forget his contribution as a captain with a team, which had no positive bowling attack because of the departure of our great spinning quartlet, and Sunil felt that with the limited bowling attack he could try at least for a draw rather than for a victory. He knew that there was no credit to take the risk of sporting declarations without variations and penetrations in his own armoury. So he always tried to get his team out of the danger zone first and then he would go for a victory.

Particularly, test cricket is totally different from a limited over game. In case of the later a moderate bowling attack would suffice for a victory by controlling the opponent run rate. Whereas, in a test match you have to take rival wickets for which a penetrative bowling attack is neccssary.

However, with that poor bowling staffs he managed to remain unbeaten till his eighteenth test as captain and won three seriescs. Then he had drawn a series against Greg Chappell's Australia in their home soil.

He used a fast bowler like Kapil Dev. effectively for the first time in Indian cricket history. At the beginning as a captain, he was the father figure of his team with his unique performances. and he also gave respect to the opinions of the senior cricketers of his team at critical moments. But later on he could not maintain the image among his boys because of the growing individual personalities among them. Some of them became jealous about his performances like the one-man show in Indian Cricket and the happy family had broken.

Before a match he always tried to analyse the strength and flaws of his opponents and made separate plans for each of them to get them out. He spent a considerable time for those plans and would discuss them with the senior players in the team meeting prior to the game. Then he would made all of his boys aware of their duties. But he would

not force a player against his own determination. For example Shivaramakrishnan was bowling round the wicket in a match against England in World Championship of cricket to Allan Lamb. Sunil asked him to go over the wicket. But Shiva told him that it was better if he stuck to round the wicket. Sunil had allowed him to do so and Shiva got "Lambie" out quickly.

His field positioning was outstanding. For instance, in 1984 Asia Cup at Sharjah he had done his homework well before the match against Pakistan to guess the strength and weaknesses of the batsman and kept a strong on-side field for Mohsin Khan and a packed off-side field for Zaheer Abbas, which helped him to contain the twin. That ultimately gave him the cup.

He had changed the batting orders of his team when required and used both his pacers and spinners with great perfection. He had shown the way to use the spinners in the slog overs of limited over cricket for the first time in the World Championship at Australia. There he had tried to take the opponent wickets without giving priority to control the run rate only. So he had tried with L. Shivaramakrishnan and that strategy became very successful.

He was always so reassuring that a new comer in his team would not feel tense. He would instil confidence in the youngstar with his charm. He would make him fell an integral part of his team, not one who was still raw,

Off the field Gavaskar was never aloof. He mixed well with everyone. For him, there never has been such thing as a junior or senior player. He has always had a great sence of humour and an uncanny knack of making the right gesture.

Being a man of sharp intellect he became very unsatisfied with the mode of termination of the Indian Captains from their posts. The Cricket Control Board never felt it necessary to give him a notice for that. Moreover he was asked to attend the selection committee meeting as a captain to select the team for World Championship of Cricket in Australia by throwing dust in the eyes of waiting journalists infront of his hotel gate at Chandigarh and he had to cross the hardle of a wall across his hotel backyard. At that very moment he made up his mind to give up "The Crown of Thorn" for ever after the .tournament and thus India had missed the service of the most matured cricket brain she possesed so far.

When the ball is rolling for India as it generally happens abroad where conditions are far more helpful to bowlers and hence help to cover up certain glaring weeknesses. The Captain's role is restricted to keeping up the positive trend in the thinking as well as in the performance on the field. But leading a team when the odds are stacked againat it is a tough job. Only those with higher qualities can take that challenge and Gavaskar is one of that lot because of his most perfect sense of cricket.

The man in need, it's Sunshine indeed.

Cricket—colourful cricket is a noble game with its characters. They have been appearing to act on the cricket field with their dramatic performances since the birth of the game. Some of them are very arrogant in nature, like Archie Mc Laren, Warwick Armstrong etc. Victor Trumper was great for his simple, natural strokeplay and affection to the game. Again there are shrewed but very sporting captains like Frank Worrel and Richie Benaud. Would you like to describe Sir Bradman as a introspective character ? Then you have to remember Sir W. G. Grace for his egotism. All of them made the game most aristocratic of all sports. But you will never find a self-restrained character with all required qualities of a cricketer like Sunil Gavaskar in the history of cricket. Cricket is the first love for Bombay boys. So, being the member of a middle class family Sunil had an affectionate love for the game right from his childhood days and became a legendary figure with shear determination. Throughout seventeen consecutive years in top grade international cricket he had to travel several thousand miles, he had to mix with persons of different religions, different customs and of different economical and educational categories. But you will find nothing wrong with his character which can be mentioned us unusual for

the great man. What he did, whatever he told—all were accompanied with a common self-conscious mentality and that was the most distinct feature of Gavaskar's character.

But he had never paffed up with pride. Being a world renowned cricketer he had not forgotten his friend and neighbours of his Chikalwadi days. Even now a days, he would enquire about their families on his visits there. During his felicitation ceremony organised at Chikalwadi, he gave a sentimental speech and had a word of gratitude for all the twenty-four families living there. Some urchins entered the compound with pieces of paper for an autograph. He patiently signed about 350 autographs that day without complaining once. And mind you, they were street urchins and slum dwellers.

Once, a neighbour in Chilkalwadi went to the Nirlon office to meet him and was sitting in the waiting room. He immediately came out and took the man to his cabin, when he very well could have asked a peon to beckon him. This is greatness.

One particular aspect of his character is that he never talks about his centuries and triumphs. Instead of that he likes to talk about the funny things of the tour.

He is well conscious about the existing comparison of his technique with that of G. R. Viswanath. On that he once told that G. R. Viswanath was technically

more, sound than him and it would only be a furse to compare an in-born talented artist like Vishy with an ordinary hard working technician like himself.

He has immense respect for his elders. a trait missing in to-day's generation. In a Ranji match against Madhya Pradesh at Indore, great Mustaq Ali had congratulated him with a stretched hand for a big score. Sunil had brought his own hand out of his gloves and had a shake-hand with Mustaq. Mustaq was moved by his courtesy.

There are so many idle talks about his "dirty manipulation" to curtail the sporting-lives of some cricketers. One of them was Gopal Bose of Bengal. In the first unofficial test of Colombo in 1973, India needed a good start to avoid defeat in the second innings. Being the opening partner of Sunil, Gopal had some problems with the leg spin attack of Somachandra-De-Silva. Sunil asked him to change the strike and had tackled Somachandra in a spectacular fashion. In a water-break Sunil advised Gopal to avoid unnecessary risks, because India was still in a bad position there. Again after scoring a half century Gopal took some adventurous strokes. Sunil immediatly came down along the track and asked Gopal, "What is wrong with you Gopal ? There is still nothing to get cheered and if you want to increase your contribution for India, if you want to play on more green wickets,

(in the forth coming England tour) then you have to score a century in this innings." "Sunil was responsible for my century in that innings and for my inclusion in the Indian squad for the next trip to England,"—Gopal Bose declared later on. Gopal is not the only person to get Sunil's favour as player. But only a few of them have their own guts to confess that—a tragedy in Sunil's life.

He is always ready to help any person who actually needs it. Journalist David Mc Mohan had a very pleasant experience. During the World Championship Cricket in Australia, the headmaster of a local primary school had asked him if Gavaskar would help to raise funds for a talented school boy athlete who could not afford an inter state trip for an important competition. If Cavaskar had a bat to donate, it could then be raffled and the money would be used to help the lad.

After the Indian victory over Australia by eight wickets at the MCG, Mr. Mc Mohan shought Gavaskar out once the post-match press conference was over. Sunil must have in a hurry to get back to the hotel, but listened patenitly to what the journalist, quite unknown to him at that time, had to say before nodding his head, adding that he would definitely help him out. There were some hectic cricket schedules after that incident, but Gavaskar had not forgotten his promise as he waved his hand to catch

David's attention just before leaving the Sydney press Conference after India's spectacular victory over New Zealand and said, "I will catch up with you in Melbourne."
At Melbourne, India won the title and Sunil made his historic exit as captain of his country. Suddenly after realishing that the Indian team was flying home, Mr. Mc Mohan dialled a ring for Gavaskar's room at the Hilton hotel to remined him about the bat, He picked up the phone and informed, "No, I has not forgotten. I've autographed one of my bats, wrapped it up and left it with one of the receptionist for you." After six months Mr. Mc Mohan asked Sunil if he had any news of that athlete. Gavaskar's answer was negative. He concluded that it was not necessary because he had never expected thanks for that.

His critics always have a different idea about his professionalism, as such he has done nothing which is not profitable to him. Sunil is also unanimous with them. In his opinion, all players love money because nobody will choose a misarable post-retirement life. Yet he is the only cricketer who had played several benefit matches for ex-cricketers and for other benevolent funds. Once, after a long hectic tour, former Ranji crickter Mumtaz Hoosain invited Sunil for his own benefit match at Vijaywada. So many current cricketers promised to play that exhibition tie. But

none of them kept his word except Sunil. He had a eight hours journey by ordinary bus to attend the match. Recently he had taken the initiative to raise the money for injured Jitender Singh, a promissing cricketer of Bengal, and sent Rs. 25, 000 to the young lad through Arun Lal. Inspite of busy schedules he had attend several functions for the benefit of blind and crippled children. Even he took part in a walk to raise funds for the flood affected people in Madras.

Gavaskar is very temperate in his personal life. He is neither fond of cigarette nor wine. Even today he would not take any decision without his father's consent. Though he had shifted his family from Dadar to Worli but had left all his prizes there, because his parents were very proud of those medals and trophys and he would enquire about them everyday on phone. Again the money he got from his parents for his centuries since his childhood were with him at Worli as the best prizes of his life.

He had found a good friend and guide in his wife, Marshniel. She had never made any complain as she never had the company of her husband for a long period. Even Sunil had to postpond his honeymoon trip in a pre-matured stage after receiving a phone call from his club, Dadar Union and the question of the surprised wife was, "How he had managed to attend his own marriage ceremony ?"

Marsheniel has been the single most stabilising influence in Sunil's life. Early on, as Raju Bharatan described, Sunil tended to be impulsive in his public responses. There was also a fatal streak of flippancy in his off-field personality. Marsheniel ironed out all those habits. Once she felt ashamed when, on her pointing out the Parliament house to Sunil, he identified it as the Delhi Municipality. Today she had made him smart enough to enter the Parliament and Sunil also has all his gratitude for what she has sacrificed for him.

Another unique aspect of his character is his memory to remember any rough behaviour with him And he believes in "Tit for tat" mentalitv. Calcutta people had insulted him and his wife during the test match against England at Eden Gardens. Out of shear frustation and to keep the honour of his wife he had promised not to play in Calcutta again. It was his .evolutionary action against the growing barbarity of the spectators worldwide and he kept his words. Even Marsheniel could not motivate Sunil to change his decisions.

Was he not loyal to his own country ? English players and journalists had a common practice to criticize the hotel conditions, foods and all other arrangements during their tours in India. None other than Sunny had a brave reply. He said, "The English arrangements were more

dubious in England."—through his syndicated column in newspaper.

But he has a good touch of humour which is never applied to hurt anybody in mind, but to make the environment easy. Once after his retirement, he came in Calcutta to attend a function. In a debate there about the necessity of neutral umpires all over the world—a lady asked to appoint lady umpires in cricket. Just after that, Gavaskar was requested to re-consider the decison of his retiremeut by the audience. His instant reply was "I can re-consider my retirement if you can arrange two lady umpires for the match."

He has a good habit to answer his fan-letters in his own hand writing and his wife always helps him to tackle the streamline flow of those postal correspondences. He feels for his fellow lovers as he himself would feel for his own heroes in childhood. But once in 1976 a cancer patient wrote him a letter, "Sunil please score a century on Indian soil against the visiting Kiwis. I want to see a century from you at Bombay before I die. I have just two months to live." Sunil was moved. But the cancer patient had not mentioned his address and Sunil became upset for days as he could not get in touch with the person. He only psyched himself and did get the century.

Once at the snack bar of Santacruz Airport, Sunil and

Mr. L. P. Shahi were talking to each other while waiting for a flight. A salesman of the snack bar requested Sunil to accept a wrist-watch (perhaps Citizen) as a gift. Sunny became perplexed for a moment and replied, "Sorry, I can't accept it. It is costlier than that on my hand. Please give me something acceptable." At last they were settled to exchange a chocholate box between them.

He now becomes a responsible father too. He always wants to give maximum possible time for his only son, Rohan. But he said that he would never force Rohan to be a cricketer. And he left it for Rohan's own choice.

He does not like to recruit himself in active politics. He has rejected the possibility of his joining in the Rajyasabha, as he has optimum interest in politics, necessary for an average Indian.

He likes to live a very simple life. Celebrity status has never really appealed very deeply to him and he also has never realished the actual meaning of celebrity status. While in a car, he would wave his hand in response to his own recognition by any person infront of a traffic signal. But he would look the other way if the man had an intention to draw other's attention towards him. Sunil is very serious and sincere about his office work. He would attend Nirlon office just at 10 am. and would inform his authority about his cricket schedule to get leave. In his office

he is a very reserved person and in home, private Sunil Gavakar often longs for loneliness. He loves to retreat to a quiet place with western musics or fiction novels.

Sunil Gavaskar sits pretty atop cricket's Mount Everest. He has done the list of cricketing achievements what perhaps Don Bradman did to them in his day. A man may not have all his dreams in reality. Rigid devotion, diligent practice, restraint life, strong determination and above all, good fortune—all of them are required for that deserving person and Gavaskar is the homogenious mixture of those qualities in perfect proportions. Selectors of school books for our future generation may request Sunil for some moral articles—as he is very popular among the children.

Gavaskar had quitted first class cricket and those constant endavour of seventeen consecutive years became history now. Though he has wished to devote himself for the cultivation of our future cricketers, yet we will certainly miss him. You will never find as a record book in himself like Sunny. About his retirement Sunil told, "I just feel like somebody who had a good meal and you give him something more—I'm not hungry any more." But with the abrupt end of his glorious career we still remain hungry for those impeccable classical handicrafts of his bat.

Good-bye and salute to you Sunny Boy. The nation will remain proud of you for ever.

Those Sunny days

6.3.71. Played his first test against West Indies in the 2nd test of the series at Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

7.3.71. Completed first innings of his test career (67)

10.3 71. Scored 63 runs in the 2nd innings and made victory stroke for India with a four. India defeated W. I. by 3 wickets for the first time after 25 encounters.

21.3.71. Scored first test century in the first innings of the third test at Georgetown.

24 3.71. Scored 64 not out in the 2nd innings and saved the match after recording a 116 run first wicket partnership with Ashoke Mankad.

6.4.71. Scored 2nd test century in the 4th test of Bridgetown.

13.4.71. Scored 102 not out in the first innings of the fifth test of Port of Spain.

14.4.71. Completed his first innings score of 124,

18-4.71. Scored another century in the 2nd innings of the fifth test and became the second Indian to score two centuries in the same test (first Vijay Hazare) and 3rd Indian to score three centuries in three consecutive test innings after Vijay Hazare and Polly Umrigar.

19.4.71 Coverted the previous day score to a double century and became the 2nd man to score a century and a double century in the same test (first Doug Walters of Australia)

25.1-73. Scored 1000 runs in test cricket (when he was at 22 out of 61) at Kanpur against England in his 11th test. This was the fastest 1000 scored among the Indians.

8.6.74. Scored fifth test century of his career against England at Manchester, England.

23.1.75. Played his 17th test at Wankhede Stadium, Bombay and after that he played 106 consecutive tests for India, a world record. He could not Play in 2nd, 3rd and 4th test of that series due to injury.

24.1.76. Captained India for the first time in his career

in absence of captain Bishen Singh Bedi in Auk-land test of the series against New-Zealand. Scored 116 and 35 not out and won the same test with one and half day to spare.

28.3.76. Scored his 7th test century in 22nd test against West Indies at Port of Spain.

11.4.76. Scored 2000 th test run when he reached on 43 in the 2nd Innings of the third test at Port of spain.

12.4.76. Scored 8th test century in 2nd innings of the same test and India won the match.

10.11.76. Scored his 9th century and first one in Indian soil against New Zealand at Bombay.

11.2.77. Scored his 10th century on the first day of Bombay test against England.

6.12.77. Scored his 11th century in tde Brisbane test against Australia.

20.12.77. Crossed the 3000 test runmark in his way to 12th century at Perth against Australia. However that was the 100th century scored by India.

2.1.78. Scored his 13th century at Melbourne and thus registered 4 centuries in four consecutive tests.

15.11.78. Scored his 14th century in the first innings of Karachi test against Pakistan.

19.11.78. Scored his 15th century in the 2nd innings of the same test of Karachi against Pakistan.

2.12.78. He became captain for a full series against West Indies and scored 2nd double century and in these process registered 3 centuries in 3 cosecutive innings for the second time in the first test of Bombay.

29.12.78. Gavaskar reached the 4000 run landmark after scoring 49 runs in the first Innings of Calcutta test and scored his 17th century against W, I.

2.1.79. Scored his 18th century in the 2nd innings of the same test and became the only man to score 2 centuries in the same test thrice.

25.1.79. Scored his 19th century at Delhi in the same series and became the 4th man to score 4 centuries in a series twice (after Bradman, Sutclief and Hurvey.)

8.2,79. Scored 732 runs in the series against West Indies in Indian soil, which is a world record for any batsman on Indian soil.

4.12.79. Scored his 3rd double century at the Oval, against England. Which was his 20th century.

20.9.79. Crossed the 5000 land mark at Bangalore against Australia when his score was 3 in the first Innings.

13.10.79. Scored his 21st century at Delhi against Australia.

3.11.79. Scored his 22nd century at Bombay against Australia.

17.1.80. Scored his 23rd century at Madras against Pakistan in 593 minutes, which was the slowest century for an Indian batsman.

24.1.81 Crossed the 6000 landmark at Adelaide, Australia when he reached 16 in the first Innings.

14.12.81 Scored his 24th century, 172 in 708 minute against England at Bangalore, which is the longest Innings of Indian first class cricket history (Previous record K.C. Abraham).

19.9.82. Scored his 25th century at Madras against Sri Lanka, which was the first test against them.

29.10.83. Sunil scored his 29th century and equalled

Don's world record. He also completed his 8000 test run when his score was 104.

13.11. 83. In this historic day, Sunil became the highest run getter in test cricket ahed of Geoff Boycotts' total of 8114 when he scored 83 in the Ist innings of Ahmedabad test against West Indies. It was the 2nd day of his 96th test. (168th innings) Boycott had taken 108 tests and 193 innings. In this test Gavaskar scored 1000 runs in the calender year, 1983 and created the world record of doing this for the 4th time.

28.12.83. Gavaskar registered his 30th century (236 not out), his highest in test cricket at Madras against West Indies. He thus became the man with highest number of centuries in test cricket.

17.12.85 He scored his 31st century and crossed the 9000 run land mark when he was at 160.

2.1.86. Scored his 32nd century.

3.7.86. In that day he had broken Colin Cowdrey's record of maximum test played by a person (114). It was his 115th test at Edgebuston. In that test he got his 100th test catch.

18.9.86. Gavaskar played his 100th cosecutive test at

Madras starting from his 17th test at Bombay. It was his 116th test. Kapil Dev gifted Sunil with captaincy in that test.

13.10.86. He scored his 33rd hundred.

21 12.86. Scored his 34th century at Kanpur. It was his first century on the city. Which was Marsheniels' fathers' home town.

7 3.87. Became the first man to score 10,000 test runs in cricket history at Ahmedabad when he was on 58. He late-cutted Manjoor Elahi to get two runs and after the completion of first run he raised his bat while running for the 2nd run.

17.3.87 He had shown his masterly display against spin bowling to score 96 runs in the 2nd Innings to save India (but was in vain) against Pakistan at Bangalore. That was his last innings and ofcourse, last day in Test Cricket.

SOME METHODICAL APPROACHES —THE GAVASKAR STYLE

In his way to success, Sunil Gavaskar had adopted some methodical approaches other than batting technique for himself. First of all he felt that to be a good batsman one should have a strong and clear vision. So he became very conscious about his eye-power from the very beginning of his career and remains so. He would never read any book inside a moving car or train and he was also very cautious about insufficient lighting during his study. He still has strong opposition against the uses of camera flashes and would prefer a book with sufficienty bold letters for reading.

He never believed in the same routine of physical exercises for all cricketers. He had chosen those particular exercises which were suitable for him and had followed them throughout his career.

He had never dreamt of his progress by leaps and bounce even at the primary stage of his career. He expected them to come one after another (like starting from school game, then for college team, university standard, for state and zonal team—step by step).

Another aspect of his batting was his shear concentration and he would start concentratlng prior to his walk towards

the crease. Little Sunil got a very unique process to increase his own concentration. He used to draw a cricket ball of exact size and would paste it on the wall. Then he wnuld stare at if for half an hour a day from a distance of at least six feet.

He always used to understand the character of the pitch and strategies of his opponent bowlers throughout his first hour at the crease. During that period he usually would restrict himself from any side stroke like, cut, pull etc. He would concentrate on the ball in the bowler's arm during run-up and delivery. He used to wait for loose balls for punishment. He usually would take care of every ball bowled to him and the important thing was that he would never lose his determination even if he edged the ball or missed the same. He did never let them (bowlers) know about the lose of his own confidence.

Any cricketer of the world cann't claims that he has finished his lessons about the game, So Sunil always tried to learn from every ball (even if it was in a school game) throughout his career. He had lost his form several times but without being disappointed he had chosen to detect his fault and had tried to correct them at the net. During net practice he would ask his team-mate (may be a junior to him) about flaws in his technique.

He would like to go bed early in a test match eve. During a test inings he never chased any target for his own achieve-

ment rather than for his country. Because it would create tension in his mind. But after scoring seventy odd runs in an innings he used to make target for another century because he belived that it should be the target for every batsman, whether it was against West Indies or aganist a school team. To avoid tension he would not like to look at the score-board while approaching towards the magic three figure zone and would realise his century with the applause of the spectators.

Sunil never thought himself as an obvious choice for the team, and he would prefer his performance with the bat to unnecessary arguments for his reply to those idle talks about his activities. So he could leave all his emotions in the dressing room before his journey to the crease. He would never plan for a particular strategy before an innings and would like to play every delivery as they came.

In Gavaskar's opinion, technique is important for a batsman but there is nothing to bother if anyone has a perfect connection of bat and ball at the time of impact. It is the match temperament which is more important to him.

The song composed by Lord Relator in West Indies during 1971 Indian tour.

A lovely day for cricket
Blue sky and gentle breeze,
The Indians are awaiting now,
To play the West Indies.

A signal from umpire,
The match is going to start.
The cricketers come on the field,
They all look very smart.

Erapalli Prasanna, Jeejeeboy and Wadekar
Krishnamurti and Ashoke Mankad,
The boys could really play cricket,
On any kind of wicket.
They make the West Indies team looks so bad.

We were in all kind of trouble,
Joe Carrew pull a muscle,
Clive Lloyd found three run out,
We were in trouble without a doubt.

It was Gavaskar,
The real master just like a wall,
We could not out Gavaskar at all.
You know, The West Indies
Could not out Gavaskar at all.

Venkatraghaban and Bedi in action,
M.L. Jaisima, Jayantilal,
They help to win the series,
Against the West Indies,
At Sabina Park and Queen's Park Oval.

One hundred and fifty eight made by Kanhai,
Really sent our hopes high,
Noreija go for 95.
But the Indian team.
They are still survive.
Gobindraj and Durrani
Solkar and Abid Ali,
Dilip Sardesai and Viswanath,
They makes West Indies bowlers look like second raters.

When them bowlers come out here to bat,
West Indies try Holder & Boyce,
Because they had no other choice.

They even tried Uton Dowe
But O'h sure they sorry,
They bring him now.

Little diamond Lewis, also Charlie Davis,
Take a little shame out we face.
But Sobers as a captain,
He went plenty coaching,
Before we cricket and up in disgrace.

Bedi hear him became a father
So he fetch Holford in the cover,
But when Sobers he too had a son,
He made duck and went back in the pavillion.

It was Gavaskar,
The real master just like a wall.
We could not out Gavaskar at all.
You know The West Indies,
Could not out Gavaskar at all.

The song made by West Indians after Sunil's knock of 117 not out in the second innings of 4th test, Bridge town, Barbados on 6.4 71.

Twinkle, twinkle Gavaskar,
How we wonder what you are,
With a bat on the crease,
You made our bowlers quite a freeze.
Twinkle, twinkle little star,
Our dear killer Gavaskar.

A memorable letter

Sunil Gavaskar,

19-8-82

Dear Anirban,

Thanks for your letter.

Yours is a very common problem with most batsmen. To detect an inswinger one must watch the arm carefully. Normally when the arm brushes the ear the ball would dip into you and the arm that is wider from the ear normally delivers an outswinger. Of course someone like Botham can do exactly the opposite and that's why he is a great bowler. The best course is to play forward unless the wicket has a lot of bounce in which case one should play back. The important thing is not to lose determination even if you edge it or miss it.

Good luck.

Sunil Gavaskar

Test Series (Innings by Innings)

Test No.	Venue	Result	First Innings			2nd Innings		
	1971		*Series Vs. West Indies in West Indies*					
1	Port of Spain	W	c. Lloyd	b. Norija	65	Not out		67
2	Georgetown	D	c. Carrew	b, Sobers	116	Not out		64
3	Bridgetown	D	c. Holder	b. Dowe	1	Not out		117
4	Port of Spain	D	c. Lewis	b. Holder	124	B. Shefered		220
	1971		*Series Vs England in England*					
5	Lord's	D	c. Amiss	b, Price	4	C. Edrich	B. Gifford	53

6	Old Trafford	D	c. Knott b. Price	57	c. Knott b Hutton	24
7	Oval	W	b. Snow	6	LBW. b, Snow	0
	1972—73		*Series Vs England in India*			
8	Delhi	L	c Greg b Arnold	12	c Greg b Underwood	8
9	Calcutta	W	c Old b Underwood	18	Lbw b Old	2
10	Madras	W	c Greg b Gifford	20	Not out	0
11	Kanpur	D	c Greg b Barkenshaw	69c	sub(Wood) b Underwood	24
12	Bombay	D	b Old	4	c & b Underwood	67
	1974		*Series Vs, England in England*			
13	Old Trafford	L	Run out	101	c Hendriks b Old	58
14	Lord's	L	c Knott b Old	49	Lbw Arnold	5
15	Edgebuston	L	c Knott b Arnold	0	c Knott b Old	4
	1974—75		*Series Vs West Indies in India*			
16	Bangalore	L	c Richards b Holder	14	c Murray p Boyce	0

17	Bombay	L	b Gibbs	86	c Fredriks b Roberts	18
	1975…76		*Series Vs New Zealand in New Zealand*			
18	Auckland	W	c Turner b Howarth	116	Not out	35
19	Christchurch	D	c Burges b Collinge	22	c Howarth b D. Hadlee	71
20	Wellington	L	c Wordsworth b R.			
				22	Absent Hurt	
	1975-76		*Series Vs West Indies in West Indies*			
21	Bridgetown	L	Lbw b Roberts	37	c Jumadin b Roberts	1
22	Port of Spain	D	c Murray b Holder	156	Did not Bat	
23	Port of Spain	W	Lbw Holding	26	c Murray b Jumadin	102
24	Kingston, Jamaika	L	b Holding	66	c Julien b Holding	2
	1976-77 Series Vs. New Zealand in India					
25	Bombay	W	C. Cairns b Petheric	119	C Burges b R. Hadlee	14

26	Kanpur	D	b O. Sullivan	66	b. R. Hadlee	15
27	Madras	W	b L. Cairns	2	Std. W. Lees B.O. Sullivan	43

1976-77 Series Vs. England in India

28	Delhi	L	c Willis b Lever	38	c Woolmer b Underwood	71
29	Calcutta	L	c Old b Willih	0	b Underwood	18
30	Madras	L	c Brearley b Old	39	c Woolmer b Underwood	24
31	Bangalore	W	c Underwood b Lever	4	c Brealey b Underwood	50
32	Bombay	D	c & b Underwood	108	c Willis b Underwood	42

1977-78 Series Vs. Australia in Australia

33	Brisbane	L	c Cosier b Clark	3	c Rixon b Clark	113
34	Perth	L	c Rixon b Clark	4	b Clark	127
35	Melbourne	W	c Rixon b Thomson	0	c Serjeant b Gannon	118
36	Sydney	W	c Rixon b Thomson	49	Did not Bat	
37	Adelaide	L	c Toohy b Thomson	7	c Rixon b Callen	29

1978-79 Series Vs. Pakistan in Pakistan

38	Faisalabad	D	b Iqbal Quasim	89	Not Out	8
39	Lahore	L	c Majid Khan b S.Altaf	5	c Sarafraj Nawaj b M. Mohamed	97
40	Karachi	L	c Sarafraj b Imran	111	c Bari b Sarafraj	137

1978-79 Series Vs Indies in India

41	Bombay	D	b Sylvester Clark	205	c Murray b Clark	73
42	Bangalore	D	c S. Shivnarayan b Clark	0	Did not Bat	
43	Calcutta	D	c F. Baccus b N.Philip	107	Not Out	182
44	Madras	W	c F. Bacchus b N. Philip	4	c Marry b Clark	1
45	Delhi	D	c Murray b Clark	120	Did not Bat	
46	Kanpur	D	c Murray b Marshall	40	Did not Bat	

1979 Series Vs England in England

47	Edgebuston	L	Run Out	61	c Gooch B Hendrik	68
48	Lord's	D	c Taylor b Gooch	42	c Brearly b Botham	59
49	Leeds	D	b Edmonds	78	Did not Bat	
50	Oval	D	c Bairstow b Botham	13	c Gower b Botham	221

1979-80 Series Vs Australia in India

51	Madras	D	c Wood b Hogg	50	Did not Bat	
52	Bangalore	D	c Hilditch b Yardley	10	Did not Bat	
53	Kanpur	W	lbw b Dymock	76	c Whatmore b Yardley	12
54	Delhi	D	lbw b Higgs	115	Did not Bat	
55	Calcutta	D	lbw b Hoggs	14	c Hilditch b Dymock	25
56	Bombay	W	c Huges b Border	123	Did not Bat	

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1979-80 Series Vs Pakistan in India

57	Bangalore	D	c Miandad b Quadir	88	Did not Bat	
58	Delhi	D	c Bari b Bakht	31	c Bari b Bakht	21
59	Bombay	W	c Quadir b Bakht	4	c Zaheer b Quasim	48
60	Kanpur	D	B Bakht	2	c Mudassar b Ehtesamuddin	81
61	Madras	W	c Quasim b Imran	166	Not Out	29
62	Calcutta	D	c Quasim b Imran	44	c Miandad b Imran	15

1979-80 Series Vs England in India

63	Bombay	L	c Taylor B Botham	49	c Talor b Botham	24

1980-81 Series Vs Australia in Australia

64	Sydney	L	c Marsh b Lillee	0	c Marsh b Hogg	10
65	Adelaide	D	b Pascoe	23	c G. Chappell b Pascoe	5
66	Melbourne	W	c Huges b Pascoe	10	lbw b Lillee	70

1980-81 Series Vs New Zealand in New Zealand

67	Wellington	L	b Cairns	23	b M. Snedden	12
68	Christchurch	D	c Smith b R. Hadlee	53	Did not Bat	
69	Auckland	D	c Smith b Snedden	5	c Wright b Bracewell	33

1981-82 Series Vs England in India

70	Bombay	W	c Taylor b Botham	55	c Taylor b Botham	14
71	Bangalore	D	c&b Underwood	172	Did not Bat	
72	Delhi	D	c Taylor b Lever	46	Did not Bat	
73	Calcutta	D	b Underwood	42	Not Out	83
74	Madras	D	c Taylor b Willis	25	c Botham b Willis	11
75	Kanpur	D	Run Out	52	Did not Bat	

1982 Series Vs England in England

76	Lord's	L	b Botham	48	c Cook b Willis	24

77	Manchester	D	c Tavare b Willis	2	Did not Bat		
78	Oval	D	Retired Hurt	21	Did not Bat		

1982 Series Vs Sri Lanka in India

79	Madras	D	c A. De Mel b DS. D. Silva	155	Not Out		4

1982-83 Series Vs. Pakistan in Pakistan

80	Lahore	D	c Bari b Sarfraz	83	Did not Bat		
81	Karachi	L	Run Out	8	b Imran		42
82	Faisalabad	L	c S. Mallik b Imran	12	Not Out		127
83	Hyderabad	L	c Bari b Imran	17	c & b Iqbal Quasim		60
84	Lahore	D	lbw Imran	13	Did not Bat		
85	Karachi	D	c Bari b T Naqquash	5	b Imran		67

1983 Series Vs. West Indies in West Indies

86	Jamaica	L	c Dujon b Marshall	20	b Holding	0
87	Port of Spain	D	c Dujon b Holding	1	c Dujon b Garner	32
88	Georgetown	D	Not out	147	Did not Bat	
89	Bridgetown	L	c Dujon b Holding	2	c Roberts b Garner	19
90	Antigua	D	c Dujon b Marshall	18	c Dujon b Davis	1

1983 Series Vs. Pakistan in India

91	Bangalore	D	lbw Taheer Naqquash	42	Not out	103
92	Jullandhar	D	b A. Hafeez	5	Did not Bat	
93	Nagpur	D	c Mudassar b Hafeez	50	c Mudassar b Nazir	64

1983-84 Series Vs West Indies in India

94	Kanpur	L	c Dujon b Marshall	0	c Davis b Marshall	7
95	Delhi	D	b Larry Gomes	121	lbw b Holding	15

96	Ahmedabad	L	c Lloyd b Holding	90	lbw b Holding	1
97	Bombay	D	lbw b Marshall	12	c Davis b Marshall	3
98	Calcutta	L	c Dujon b Marshall	0	c Dujon b Holding	20
99	Madras	D	Not out	236	Did not Bat	

1984-85 *Series Vs Pakistan in Pakistan*

00	Lahore	D	c Saleem b Hafeez	48	lbw b Jalaluddin	37
01	Faisalabad	D	c Qusim b Quadir	35	Did not Bat	

1984-85 *Series Vs England in India*

02	Bombay	W	c Downton b Cowans	27	c Gower b Cowans	5
103	Delhi	L	c Downton b Ellison	1	b Pocock	65
104	Calcutta	D	c Gatting b Edmonds	13	Did not Bat	
105	Madras	L	b Foster	17	c Gatting b Foster	3
106	Kanpur	D	b Cowans	9	Did not Bat	

1985-86 *Series Vs Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka*

107	Colombo	D	Run Out	51	c De Mel b Ratnayeke	0
108	Colombo	L	St. Amal Silva b Ranatunya	52	b Ratnayeke	19
109	Kandy	D	c Amal Silva b Ranayeke	49	Not out	15

1985-86 *Series Vs Australia in Australia*

110	Adelaide	D	Not out	166	Did not Bat	
111	Melbourne	D	b Gilbert	6	b Reid	8
112	Sydney	D	b Holland	172	Did not Bat	

1986 *Series Vs England in England*

113	Lord's	W	c Emburey b Dilley	34	c Downton b Dilley	22
114	Hedingley	W	c B French b Pringle	35	c B French b Lever	1
115	Edgebuston	D	b Pringle	29	c B French b Foster	54

1986 *Series Vs Austraiia in India*

116	Madras	D	c & b G Mathews	8	c Jones b Bright	90
117	Delhi	D	b Gilbert	4	Did not Bat	
118	Bombay	D	c Richie b Mathew	103	Did not Bat	

1986-87 *Series Vs Sri Lanka in India*

119	Kanpur	D	c Wettimuny b Labrooy	176	Did not Bat	
120	Nagpur	W	c A De Silva b Gurusinghe	74	Did not Bat	
121	Cuttak	W	lbw b Ravi Ratnayeke	5	Did not Bat	

1987 *Series Vs Pakistan in India*

122	Madras	D	c Tauseef b Quadir	91	Did not Bat	
123	Jaipur	D	c Miandad b Imran	0	c Raja b Tauseef	24
124	Ahmedabad	D	lbw b Imran	63	Did not Bat	
125	Bangalore	L	b Tauseef	21	c Rijwan b Quasim	96

He had not opened the innings for India on 10 occasions, and played in lower batting order.

Test Career (As a Batsman) Series by Series

Season	Vs.	Venue	Test	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Avg.	H.S.	200	100	50	0
1) 1970-71	W.I.	W.I.	4	8	0	774	154.80	220	1	3	3	
2) 1971	Eng.	Eng.	3	6		144	24.00	57			2	1
3) 1972-73	Eng	Ind	5	10	1	224	24.88	69			2	1
4) 1974	Eng	Eng	3	6		217	36.16	101		1	1	1
5) 1974-75	W.I.	Ind	2	4		108	27.00	86			1	1
6) 1975-76	N.Z.	N.Z.	3	5	1	266	66.50	116		1	1	
7) 1976	W I.	W.I.	4	7		390	55·71	156		2	1	
8) 1976	N.Z.	IND	3	6		259	43.16	119		1	1	
9) 1976-77	Eng	Ind	5	10		394	39·40	108		1	2	1
10) 1977-78	Aus	Aus	5	9		450	50.00	127		3		1

1)	978	Pak	Pak	3	6	447	89.40	137	2	2
2)	978-79	W.I.	Ind	6	9	732	91.50	205	3	1
3)	1979	Eng	Eng	4	7	542	77 43	221		4
4)	979	Aus	Ind	6	8	425	53.12	123	2	2
15)	979-80	P	Ind	6		529	52.90	166	1	2
16)	980	Eng	Ind		2	73	36.50	49		
17)	980-81	Aus	Aus	3	6	118	19.66	70		
18)	1981	N.Z.	N.Z	3	5	126	25.20	53		
19)	981 82	Eng	Ind	6	9	500	62.50	172		3
20)	982	Eng	Eng	3	3	74	24.66	48		
21)	982	S.L.	Ind	1	2	59	59.00	15		
22)	982-83	Pak	Pak	6	10	434	48·22	27		3
23)	983 —	W.I	W.I.	5	9	240	30·00	47		
24)	983	Pak	Ind	3	5	264	66.00	03		2
25)	983-84	W.I	Ind	6		505	50·50	236		2
26)	984	Pak	Pak	2	3	120	0.00	48		

27, 1984-85	Eng	Ind	5	8		140	17.50	65		1		
28) 1985	S. L.	S. L.	3	6	1	186	44 50	52		2	1	
29) 1985-86	Aus	Aus	3	4	1	352	117.33	172	2			
30) 1986	Eng	Eng	3	6		175	29.16	54		1		
£1) 1986	Aus	Ind	3	5		205	51.25	103	1	1		
32) 1986-87	S. L.	Ind	3	3		255	85·00	176	1	1		
33) 1987	Pak	Ind	4	6		295	49.17	96		3	1	
Total			125	214	16	10,122	51.12	236 *	4	30	45	12

Scoring rate in each years

1971—918, 1972—38, 1973—186, 1974—231, 1975—94, 1976—1024, 1977—539, 1978–1044, 1979—1555, 1980—327, 1981—549, 1982—579, 1983—1310, 1984—231, 1985—395, 1986—802, 1987—300.

* Not Out

Total Batting Performances in Test Cricket

Countrywise, As a Captain, In India & Abroad

Against	T	Inn	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avge	100	50	0	Ct	Capt.
W. Indies	27	48	6	2749	236 *	65.45	13	7	5	17	6
England	38	67	2	2483	221	38·20	4	16	3	32	14
New Zealand	9	16	1	651	119	43.44	2	3	—	11	4
Australia	20	31	1	1550	172	51.66	8	4	2	19	9
Pakistan	24	41	4	2089	166	56·45	5	12	1	19	13
Sri Lanka	7	11	2	600	176	66·66	2	3	1	7	1
Total	125	214	16	10,122	236*	51·12	34	45	12	108	47
In India	65	108	7	5067	236*	50·16	16	23	6	51	31
Abroad	60	106	9	5055	221	52·11	18	22	6	57	16
As Captain	47	74	6	3449	205	50·72	11	14	2	45	—

ABROAD

In W.I.	13	24	4	1404	220	70·20	7	4	1	7	—
In Eng.	16	28	—	1152	221	41.14	2	8	2	14	3
In Pak.	11	19	2	1001	137	58.88	3	5	—	12	8
In Aus.	11	19	1	920	172	51·11	5	1	2	13	3
In N.Z.	6	10	1	392	116	43.55	1	2	—	8	4
In Sri Lanka	3	6	1	186	52	37.20	—	2	1	3	—

IN INDIA

Against

W.I	14	24	2	1345	236 *	61.13	6	3	4	10	6
Eng.	22	39	2	1331	172	35.80	2	8	2	21	11
Pak	13	22	2	1088	166	54.40	2	7	1	7	5
Aus	9	13	—	630	123	48.46	3	3	—	6	6
New Zealand	3	6	—	259	119	43.16	1	1	—	3	—
Sri Lanka	4	5	1	414	176	103.50	2	1	—	4	1

Progressive Milestones in Test Cricket

Runs	Test No.	Innings No.	Opponent	Venue	Date
1000	11	21	England	Kanpur	25.1.73
2000	23	44	West Indies	Port of Spain	11.4.76
3000	34	68	Australia	Perth	18.12.77
4000	43	81	West Indies	Calcutta	29 12.78
5000	52	95	Australia	Bangalore	20.9.79
6000	65	117	Australia	Adelaide	24.1.81
7000	80	140	Pakistan	Lahore	14 12.82
8000	95	166	West Indies	New Delhi	29.10.83
9000	110	192	Australia	Adelaide	17 12.85
10,000	124	212	Pakistan	Ahmedabad	7.3.87 (at 3-28p.m.)

Ground Wise Scoring Sequoence

(FOREIGN)

Ground	Test	Inns.	100	50	0	Highest	N.O.	Total	Avg.
Port of Spain	5	9	4	2	—	220	1	793	99.13
Georgetown	2	3	2	1	—	147 *	2	327	327·00
Barbados	3	6	1	—	—	117 *	1	177	35.40
Sabina Park	2	4	—	1	1	66	—	88	22·00
St. Jones	1	2	—	—	—	18	—	19	9.50
Lord's	5	10	—	2	—	59	—	340	34·00
Old Trafford	2	4	1	2	—	101	—	240	60·00
Oval	2	4	1	—	1	221	—	240	60·00
Birmingham	1	2	—	—	1	4	—	4	2·00
Edgebuston	3	4	—	3	—	68	—	212	53·00
Leeds	3	4	—	1	—	78	—	116	29·00
Brisbane	1	2	1	—	—	113	—	116	58·00

Perth	1	2	1	—	—	127	—	131	65·50
Melbourne	3	6	1	1	1	118	—	212	35·33
Sydney	3	4	1	—	1	172	—	231	57·75
Adelaide	3	5	1	—	—	166 *	1	230	57·50
Auckland	2	4	1	—	—	116	1	189	63·00
Manchester	1	2	—	1	—	71	—	93	46·50
Christchurch	1	1	—	1	—	53	—	53	53·00
Wellington	2	3	—	—	—	23	—	57	19·00
Karachi	3	5	2	2	—	137	—	403	80·60
Faisalabad	3	5	1	1	—	127 *	1	271	67·75
Lahore	4	7	—	1	—	97	—	250	35·71
Hyderabad	1	2	—	1	—	60	—	77	38·50
Colombo	2	4	—	2	1	52	—	122	30·50
Candi	1	2	—	—	—	49	1	64	64·00
Total	60	106	18	22	6	221	8	5065	51·58

Ground Wise Scoring Sequence (Home Soil)

Delhi	9	14	3	2	—	121	—	668	47-71
Bombay	13	24	6	4	—	205	2	1352	61-45
Madras	11	18	2	4	1	236 *	2	837	52-31
Calcutta	8	15	2	1	2	182 *	2	581	44-69
Kanpur	10	17	1	6	1	176	—	767	45-12
Ahmedabad	2	3	—	2	—	90	—	154	51-33
Jullandhar	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2-00
Bangalore	8	12	2	3	2	172	1	603	54-81
Nagpur	1	1	—	1	—	74	—	74	74-00
Cuttak	1	1	—	—	—	5	—	5	5-00
Jaipur	1	2	—	—	1	24	—	24	12-00
Total	65	108	16	23	7	236 *	7	5067	50-17

6

Test Centuries in Brief

Sl. No	Score	Time	No of 4's	No of 6's	Test
1	116	270	11	—	2
2	117 *	340	10	1	3
3	124	390	11	—	4
4	220	510	24	—	4
5	101	300	8	—	13
6	116	365	15	1	18
7	156	480	13	—	22
8	102	247	13	—	23
9	119	261	20	—	25
10	108	341	13	—	32
11	113	320	12	—	33
12	127	270	20	—	34
13	118	345	12	—	35
14	111	357	15	—	40
15	137	315	20	—	40
16	205	398	29	2	41
17	107	315	18	—	43
18	182 *	399	19	—	43
19	120	344	18	—	45

20	221	490	12	—	50
21	115	329	17	1	54
22	123	300	17	—	56
23	166	593	15	1	61
24	172	708	21	—	71
25	155	399	24	1	79
26	127 *	437	19	—	81
27	147 *	330	17	1	88
28	103 *	239	13	—	91
29	121	224	15	2	95
30	236 *	644	23	—	99
31	166 *	551	16	—	110
32	172	513	19	—	112
33	103	302	11	—	118
34	176	506	22	—	119

(a) His Quickest century in test cricket is 121 at Delhi against W.I. in 1983-84 series (played in 224 minute) Exact time and balls required for 100 in that innings is 183 minutes and 94 balls respectively.

(b) His quickest double century is 205 at Bombay against W.I. in 1978-79 series, played in 393 minutes.

(c) His highest score in a day (in test) is 179 vs. England at the Oval in 1979 series (fifth day)

(d) He scored a century in every 6.29 innings.

List of Half Centuries

Sl No	Test No.	Score	Against
1	1	65	WI.
2	1	67 *	WI.
3	2	64 *	WI.
4	5	53	Eng.
5	6	57	Eng.
6	11	69	Eng.
7	12	67	Eng.
8	13	58	Eng.
9	17	86	WI.
10	19	71	NZ.
11	24	66	WI.
12	26	66	NZ.
13	28	71	Eng.
14	31	50	Eng.
15	38	89	Pak.
16	39	97	Pak.
17	41	73	WI.
18	47	61	Eng.
19	47	68	Eng.
20	48	59	Eng.
21	49	78	Eng.

22	51	50	Aust.
23	53	76	Aust.
24	57	88	Pak.
25	60	81	Pak.
26	66	70	Aust.
27	68	53	NZ.
28	70	55	Eng.
29	73	83	Eng.
30	75	52	Eng.
31	80	83	Pak.
32	83	60	Pak.
33	85	67	Pak.
34	93	50	Pak.
35	93	64	Pak.
36	96	90	WI.
37	103	65	Eng.
38	107	51	Sri Lanka.
39	108	52	Sri Lanka.
40	115	54	Eng.
41	116	90	Aust.
42	120	74	Sri Lanka.
43	122	91	Pak.
44	124	63	Pak.
45	125	96	Pak.

Century Partnership in Test Cricket

For 1st Wicket

Sl. No.	Test No.	Partner	Run
1	50	C. P. S. Chauhan	213
2	122	K. Srikanth	200
3	56	C. P. S. Chauhan	192
4	39	C. P. S. Chauhan	192
5	112	K. Srikanth	191
6	91	A. D. Gaekwad	176 *
7	66	C. P. S. Chauhan	165
8	79	Arun Lal	156
9	41	C. P. S. Chauhan	153
10	24	A. D. Gaekwad	136
11	12	F. M. Engineer	135
12	14	F. M. Engineer	131
13	96	A. D. Gaekwad	127
14	60	C. P. S. Chauhan	125
15	47	C. P. S. Chauhan	124
16	2	A. V. Mankad	123
17	25	A. D. Gaekwad	120
18	45	C. P. S. Chauhan	119
19	53	C. P. S. Chauhan	114
20	68	C. P. S. Chauhan	114
21	80	Arunlal	105
22	71	K. Srikanth	102

For 2nd Wicket

1	43	D. B. Vengsarkar	344 *
2	112	M. Amarnath	224
3	18	S. Amarnath	204
4	34	M. Amarnath	193
5	95	D. B. Vengsarkar	178
6	17	E. Solkar	168
7	79	D. B. Vengsarkar	163
8	50	M. Amarnath	103
9	4	G. R. Viswanath	155
10	83	D. B. Vengsarkar	153
11	40	A. Wadekar	148
12	26	M. Amarnath	125
13	45	M. Amarnath	117
14	23	M. Amarnath	114
15	81	D. B. Vengsarkar	151
16	57	M. Amarnath	108
17	79	M. Amarnath	107
18	116	D. B. Vengsarkar	105

For Third Wicket

1	54	G. R. Viswanath	159
2	4	D. N. Sardesai	122
3	103	M. Amarnath	121

4	119	D. B. Vengsarkar	117
5	2	G. R. Viswanath	112
6	88	D. B. Vengsarkar	112
7	124	D. B. Vengsarkar	111
8	82	G. R. Viswanath	101

For Fourth Wicket

1	119	M. Azharuddin	163
2	82	M. Amarnath	145
3	32	Brijesh Patel	139
4	41	C. P. S. Chauhan	117
5	120	D. B. Vengsarkar	116
6	88	Yaspal Sharma	104

For 5th Wicket

1	23	Brijesh Patel	204
2	61	Yaspal Sharma	105

For 6th Wicket

1	99	Ravi Shastri	170

For 9th Wicket

1	99	S. M. H. Kirmani	143

Partner's with No. of Century partnerships

Partners	How many Times	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
C. P. S. Chauhan	11	10	—	—	1						
M. Amarnath	10	—	8	1	1						
D. B. Vengsarkar	10	—	6	3	1						
A. D. Gaekwad	4	4									
G. R. Viswanath	4	—	1	3							
K. Srikanth	3	3									
Arun Lal	2	2									
Yaspal Sharma	2				1	1					
A. L. Wadekar	1		1								
A. V. Mankad	1	1									
D. N. Sardesai	1			1							
F. M. Engineer	2	2									
B. P. Patel	2				1	1					

E. D. Solkar	1		1								
S. Amarnath	1		1								
R. J. Shastri	1						1				
S. M. H. Kirmani	1									1	
M. Azharuddin	1				1						
18 Partners	58	22	18	8	6	2	1	—	—	1	—

Opening Partners of Gavaskar

Gavaskar had opened Indian Innings in test cricket with 18 partners.

1) Ashoke Mankad 2) Abid Ali 3) Ramnath Parkar 4) Chetan Chouhan 5) Farooqe Engineer 6) Eknath Solkar 7) Sudhir Nayake 8) Hemant Kanitkar 9) Dilip Vengsarkar 10) Parthasarathy Sharma 11) Angshuman Gaekwad 12) Mahinder Amarnath 13) Roger Binny 14) Arunlal 15) Krishnamacharya Srikanth 16) Ravi Shastri 17) Pranab Roy 18) Manoj Prabhakar.

Gavaskar opened in 59 innings of 36 tests with Chetan Chauhan which is an Indian record.

Innings Summary & Lbw Dismissals.

Not out O	1 Times.
'Duck'	12 „
1 to 9	45 „
10 to 25	45 „
26 to 49	32 „
50 to 75	32 „
76 to 89	8 „
90 to 99	5 „
100 to 149	22 „
150 to 199	8 „
200 to 249	4 „

Lbw Summary	No of Test Played	How many times
Lbw in India	65	10
„ „ Eng	16	2
„ „ W. I.	13	2
„ „ Aus.	11	1
„ „ Pak.	11	2
„ „ Sri Lanka.	3	—
	125	17

Dismissal Summary

Caught	141	Times
Bowled	33	„
Lbw	17	„
Run Out	5	„
Stumped	2	..
Others	—	„

Gavaskar has been dismissed 4 times on the first ball he faced in the innings.

Venue.	Year	How Dismissed	Vs.
Birmingham	1974	c Knott	b Arnold, (Eng)
Bangalore	1978 79	c *S*hivnarayan	b Clarke, (W. I)
Calcutta	1983-84	c Dujon	b Marshall (WI)
Jaipar	1987	c Miandad	b Imran (Pak)

Dismissed on the first ball of the match :—3 Times.

Venue	year	Test No	How dismissed
Birmingham	1974	c knott	b Arnlod (Eng)
Calcutta	1978-79	c Shivnarayan	b S. Clarke (W.I.)
Jaipur	1987	c Miandad	b Imran (Pak)

But he never got two ducks in the same test.

Bowlers who took Gavaskar's wicket : —

FOR WEST INDIES :—(42)

11-Michael Holding, 8-Malcom Marshall, 5-Sylvester Clarke, 3-Andy Roberts, 2-Norbert Phillip and Joel Garner, Once—J, Shephered, Gary Sobers, Uton Dowe, Lance Gibbs, Keith Boyce, Winston Davis, Larry Gomes, Vanburn Holder, David Holford, Raphick Jumadin, J Nareija.

FOR AUSTRALIA :—30

4—Wayne clerk. and Len Pascoe, 3—Jeff Thomson Rodney Hogg, 2—Dennis Lillee and Geoff Dymock, Dave Gillbert, Greg Methews, Bruce Yardly, 1—Allan Border, Ray Bright, Ian Callen, Sam Gannon, Bob Holland, Bruce Reid, Jim Higgs.

FOR ENGLAND :—(62)

12—Derek Underwood, 8—Ian Botham, 6—Chris Old, 5—Bob Willis, 4-John Lever, 3—Geoff Arnold, Norman Cowans, Neil Foster, 2—John Price, Norman Gifford, John Snow, Phil Edmonds, Derek Pringle. and Graham Dilley, Once—Jack Birkenshaw, Richard. Hutton, Mike Hendrick, Graham Gooch, Richard Ellison, Pat Pockock.

FOR NEW ZEALAND—(15)

4-Richard Hadlee, 2—David O'sullivan, Martin Snedden Lance Cairns, Once—Dayle Hadlee, Howarth, Peter Petherick Richard Collinge, John Bracewell.

FOR PAKISTAN :—(36)

11—Imran Khan, 4-Sikandar Bakht and Iqbal Quasim 3 Abdul Quadir, Azeem Hafeez. 2—Sarfraz Nawaz, Tahir Naqqash, Touseef Ahmed, once—Ehtesamuddin, Nazir Mohd Mustaq Mohd, Salim Altaf, Jalaluddin.

FOR SRI-LANKA :—(8)

3—Rumesh Ratnayake, Once—Arjuna Ranatunga, Ravi Ratnayake, Graeme Labrooy, Asanka Gurusinghe, Soma-Chandra De Silva.

Dismissed Most by :—Derek Underwood (12 times) Dismissed most by one bowler in one series :—Derek Underwood, 6 times, 1976-77, In India in 5 Tests,

Results of Tests he played

Test played :—125
Won :—26
Loss :—34
Drawn :—65

Bowling record of Sunil in Test Cricket.

Balls	Maidens	Runs	Wkt	Avg.	Best Bowling
380	90	207	1	206.00	1/34

Results of Tests in which he scored a century

Century Scored :—34
Won :—6
Loss :—5
Drawn :—20 (as 3 of them are centuries in both innings)
Runs Scored through 34 centuries :—4905

Gavaskar in first Class Cricket

Level	M	Inn.	Runs	N.O.	Avg.	300	200	100	H.S.
Tests	125	214	10,122	16	51.12	—	4	30	236
Ranji T.	66	93	5335	17	70.19	1	2	17	340
Duleep T.	22	34	1859	4	60.19	—	1	5	228
Irani T.	12	22	733	4	40.27	—	—	3	156 *
M. G. C.	9	15	476	2	36.61	—	—	—	?
County	15	23	686	3	34.30	—	—	2	155 *
O.F.C.	85	131	5483	14	47.26	—	—	14	194
U. F. T.	3	6	344	—	57.33	—	1	—	203
For R.O.W	12	22	747	1	35.57	—	—	1	188
Total	349	556	25,785	59	51.88	1	8	72	340

M G. C.—Moinuddaula Gold Cup, D. F. C.—Other first class, U. F. T.—Un-official tests R. O. W.—Rest of the world.

His Highest score is 340 vs Bengal at Bombay in 81-82 and has scored 103 half centuries with 30 times out without scoring. He has appointed captain for 124 first class matches (47 in tests, 39 in Ranji trophy, 10 in Duleep trophy, 6 in Irani cup and 22 in other first class matches.) He has scored over 1000 runs on tour 4 times—(71-74 and 79 tour in Eng and 70-71 tour in W. I.) Season's Highest aggregate in 78-79, His last score in first class cricket is 'O' bowled Malcom Marshall at Lord's in 1987 against M. C. C. XI for Rest of the World (Bi-centenary test of M.C.C) Gavaskar got the best fielder award for the Rest of the World XI against Australia in 1971-72 series. His highest score for World XI is 188 at Lord's, which is however his only century on that ground against M. C.C. XI in 1987 (Bi-centenary of M. C. C.) He sccred 4 Half centuries for Rest of the World team.

Bowling in first class Cricket.

Balls	Wkt	Best Bowling.
1911	20	3 for 43

at Jamshedpur Ranji Trophy match in 1972-73.

Performance in 1971-72 series Against Australia as a member of World XI team

1st Test—22 & 4	at	Brisbane.
2nd Test—O & 21	„	Perth.
3rd Test—38 & 27	„	Melbourne
4th Test—64 & 68	„	Sydney
5th Test—18 & 50	„	Adelaide,

Career figure in Ranji Trophy.

Season	M	Inn	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avg.	100	50
1969-70	2	3	1	141	114	70.50	1	—
1970-71	2	3	—	307	176	102.33	2	—
1971-72	3	5	—	494	282	98.80	2	—
1972-73	7	11	3	579	160	72.38	3	—
1973-74	6	9	1	248	84	31.00	—	1
1974-75	5	6	1	208	96 *	40.60	—	1
1975-76	4	5	1	510	190	127.50	3	—
1976-77	7	9	1	398	120	49.75	1	3
1978-79	6	6	—	377	204	62.83	2	1
1979-80	7	11	2	491	153	54.56	1	3
1981-82	6	8	1	632	340	90.29	2	—
1983-84	6	9	3	541	206 *	108.20	2	2
1984-85	4	7	3	399	106	99.75	1	3
1985-86	1	1	—	15	15	15.00	—	—
Total—14	66	93	17	5335	340	70.19	20	14

Career figure in Duleep Trophy.

Season	M	Inn	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avg.	100	50
1971-72	2	3	—	138	101	46.00	1	—
1972-73	2	3	1	65	55	32.50	—	1
1973-74	1	2	1	65	53	65.00	—	1
1974-75	2	4	—	76	41	19.00	—	—
1975-76	1	2	—	124	84	62.00	—	1
1976-77	3	5	—	356	228	71.20	1	1
1977-78	2	3	—	276	169	92.00	1	1
1978-79	1	1	1	130	130 *	Infinite	1	—
1981-82	2	2	1	187	164 *	187.00	1	—
1982-83	2	4	—	108	67	27.00	—	1
1985-86	2	3	—	235	119	78.33	1	1
1986-87	2	2	—	99	92	49.50	1	1
Total 12	22	34	4	1859	228	60.19	6	8

Career figure in Irani Cup

Representing	Season	M	Inn	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avg.	100	50
Bombay	1967-68	1	2	—	5	5	2.5	—	—
"	1970-71	1	2	1	58	46 *	58.00	—	—
"	1971-72	1	2	—	71	48	35.50	—	—
"	1972-73	1	2	—	6	6	3.00	—	—
"	1973-74	1	2	—	132	108	66.00	1	—
R.O.I.	1974-75	1	1	1	156	156 *	Infinite	1	—
Bombay	1975-76	1	1	—	47	47	47.00	—	—
"	1976-77	1	2	1	23	15	23.00	—	—
R.O.I.	1980-81	1	2	—	28	27	14.00	—	—
Bombay	1981-82	1	2	1	152	102 *	152.00	1	1
R.O.I.	1982-83	1	2	—	28	28	14.00	—	—
Bombay	1984-85	1	2	—	27	14	13.50	—	—
Total	12 seasons	12	22	4	733	156 *	40.72	3	1

Gavaskar in One Day Cricket.

World Cup

year	M	Inn.	N.O.	100	50	H.S.	Total	Avg.
1975	3	3	2	—	1	65 *	113	113.00
1979	3	3	—	—	1	55	88	29.36
1983	6	6	3	—	—	25	59	19.66
1987	7	7	1	1	2	103 *	300	50.00
Asia Cup (Sarjah) 1983-84								
1984		1	1	—	—	36 *	36	36.00
Benson & Hedges Cup (Australia) 1984-85								
1984	5	2	1	—	1	54	84	84.00
Rothmans Cup (Sarjah) 1985-86								
1985	2	2	—	—	—	20	22	11.00
Benson & Hedges World Series Cup (Australia) 1985-86								
1985	10	10	1	—	4	92 *	385	42.78
Australasia Cup (Sarjah) 1986								
1986	3	3	—	—	2	92	163	54.33
Champion's Trophy (Sarjah) 1986-87								
1986		3	—			63	90	30.00

Sarjah Cup 1986-87

1987	2	2	1	—	1	78 *	78	78.00

Total Batting :

M	Inn.	N.O.	R	Avg.	H.S.	100	50	ct.
107	102	14	3092	35.14	103	1	27	22

Bowling

Balls	Runs	Wkt.	Avg.	Runs/Ball	Best Bowling
20	25	1	25.00	1.25	1 for 10

He scored three 90+runs in one-day cricket. Gavaskar Scored a century, 103 not out in 88 Balls (10 fours, 3 Sixes) against N Z. in Reliance Cup '87 at Nagpur. He took only 85 Balls to score the 100. Gavaskar took 4 cathes in a match against Pakistan at Sharjah in 1984-85 which is a world record. He won two tournaments as a captain, Asia Cup at Sharjah in 1984 and Benson & Hedges Cup at Australia in 1985. He got the Best fielder award of Rothman's Cup—1985 at Sharjah.

Note :—Please add "lbw in N.Z. played 6, No. of lbw—Nil" after the 19th line "lbw in Sri Lanka." on Page No.—91

Century Partnerships in One Day criket.

Sl No.	Wicket	Partner's Name	Runs	Venue	Opponent	year
1.	1st	M. Pravakar	154	Jamshedpur	Pak	86-87
2.	Ist	Engineer	123	Leeds	E. Africa	75
3.	1st	Srikanth	117	Sharjah	Pak	86
4.	1st	Srikanth	136	Nagpur	N Z	87
5.	2nd	Azharuddin	165	Sharjah	Aus	86-87
6.	2nd	Azharuddin	163 *	Oval	Eng	86
7.	2nd	S. Patil	115	Lahore	Pak	82-83
8.	2nd	Vengsarkar	101	Melbourne	Aus	80-81
9.	3rd	R. J. Shastri	115	Indore	Aus	84-85
10.	3rd	A. Malhotra	105	Jamshedpur	W I.	83-84
11.	3rd	Vengsarkar	102	Melbourne	Aus	85-86
12.	4th	Azharuddin	132	Melbourne	Pak	84-85

Name of bowlers he faced in Test Cricket.

Series No	Bowlers
1.	Nareiza, Sobers, Shepherd, Holder, Boyce, Doe, Holford, Barett, Gibbs, Shillingford, Islam Ali.
2.	Price, Dolivera, Snow, Illingworth, Gifford, Peter Lever, Underwood.
3.	Arnold, Old, Tony Greg, Pockok, Underwood, Birkenshaw, Cottum, Gifford.
4.	Old, Hendriks, Willis, Arnold, Tony Greg, Underwood.
5.	Roberts, Holder, Gibbs, Julien, Willet, Boyce, Barett.
6.	Richard Hadlee, Collinge, Kongdon, Del Hadlee, Hedly Howarth, Cairns, David O' Sullivan.
7.	Holding, Holford, Roberts, Jumadin, Daniel, Imtiaz Ali, Jullien, Padmore, Holder.
8.	Cairns, Richerd Hadlee, Petherik, Collinge, Sullivan, G. Troop, Roberts, Howarth.
9.	John Liver, Willis, Underwood, Old, Greg, Mike Selvi, Bob Ulmar.
10.	Wayne Clerk, Jeff Thomson, Callen, Gannon, Gary Cozier, Hurst, Yardley, Bob Simpson, Easy Man.
11	Mudassar Nazar, Sarfraz, Miandad, Imran, Mustaq Mohd, Sikandar Bakht, Salim Altaf, Iqbal Quasim.

12. Silvester Clark, Norbert Phillip, Parry, Gomes, Holder, Jumadin, Malcom Marshal, Shibnarayan, Kalicharan.

13. Hendriks, Botham, Liver, Willis, Gooch, Edmonds, Miller, Willey, Boycott.

14. Dymock, Border, Yardley, Hogg, Higgs. Yallop, Whatemore, Alan Hurst, P. Sleep.

15. Imran, Ehtesamuddin, Sikandar Bakht, Iqbal Quasim, Asif Iqbal, Majid khan, Mudassar Nazar, Quadir, W, Raja.

16. Stevenson, Botham, John Lever.

17. Len Pascoe, Dennis Lillee, Greg Chappell, Border, Yardley, Higgs, Hogg, D. Walters.

18. J. Bracewell, Cairns, Cosy, Cony, Troop, R. Hadlee, G. Howarth, Snedden.

19. Willis, Lever, Embury, Alott, Gooch, Botham, Underwood, Dilley.

20. Willis, Pringle, Botham, Edmonds, Miller, Alott.

21. Asanta De-Mel, Somachandra De Silva, Rumesh Ratnayeke, Ajit De Silva. Ranasinghe, Ranatunga, Warnapura.

22. Imran, Sarfraz, Quadir, Iqbal Quasim, Mudassar Jalaluddin, T. Naquash.

23. Roberts, Marshall, Holding, Garner, Davis, Gomes, Richards,

24. Naquash, Hafeez, W, Raja, Selim Mallik, Nazir (Jr), Mudassar Nazar.

25. Marshall, Holding, Davis, Daniel, Gomes, Richards.

26. Quadir, Hafiz, W. Raja, Mudassar Nazar, Jalaluddin, Manjoor Elahi, Tauseef Ahmed, Wasim Akram.

27. Foster, Edmouds, Cowans, Pocock, Cowdrey. Ellison

28. Rumesh Ratnayeke, Asanta De Mel, Ranatunga, Salia Ahangama, A. De. Silva.

29. Mc-dermott, Reid, Mathews, Simon Davis, Waugh, Dave Gilbert.

30. Dilley, Bradford, Foster, Emburey, Edmonds, Pringle.

31. Mc-dermott, Reid, Mathews, Bright, Waugh, Border.

32. Asanta De Mel, Rumesh Ratnayeke, Grame Labrooi, Rabi Ratnayeke, Ashoke De Silva.

33. Imran, Akram, Tauseef Ahmed, Quadir, Soaib Mohd, Salim Zafar, Iqbal Quasim, Izaz Faqih.

For Series No., please consult with page No—73

Gavaskar got his only wicket in test cricket at Faisalabad in 1978-79 series against Pakistan. Zaheer Abbas C. Chouhan b Gavaskar 96 in the 2nd innings.

Test catches he took

Sl No.	Batsman	Bowler	Test No.
1	Keith Boyce	Venkatraghaban	2
2	J. Jameson	Abid Ali	6
3	B. D. Olivera	Abid Ali	6
4	R. Illingworth	Venkatraghaban	6
5	B. Lakhurst	Solkar	7
6	Kieth Fletcher	B. S. Bedi	7
7	Kieth Fletcher	Prassanna	9
8	Alan Knott	Prassanna	11
9	Dennis Amiss *	Bedi	13
10	Gordon Greenidge *	Venkatraghaban	16
11	Glen Turner	Chandrasekhar	18
12	K. Wordsworth	Prassanna	18
13	Bivan Kongdon *	Prassanna	18
14	J. Parker	B. S. Bedi	20
15	K. Wordsworth	B. S. Bedi	20
16	A Padmore	B. S. Bedi	23
17	R. Jumadin	S. Venkatraghaban	24
18	G. Turner *	Madanlal	25
19	Mark Burjes *	B. S. Bedi	25
20	A. D. Roberts *	B. S. Bedi	27
21	Allan Knott	B. S. Bedi	29
22	J. Lever	B. S. Bedi	29

23	Underwood	B. S. Bedi	29
24	Bob Ulmar	Madanlal	30
25	J. Lever	B. S. Bedi	32
26	Bob Willis	B. S. Bedi	32
27	R. Tolchard *	Ghabri	32
28	C. Serjeant	B. S. Bedi	33
29	Bobby Simpson	B. S. Bedi	33
30	W. Clark	B. Chandrashekhar	33
31	A. Mann	B. S. Bedi	35
32	A Mann *	B. Chandrashekhar	35
33	W. Clark	B. Chandrashekhar	36
34	G. Yallop	M. Amarnath	37
35	Peter Toohey	Chardrashekhar	37
36	Mustaq Mohammad	Chandrashekhar	38
37	Sadiq Mohammad *	Kapildev	38
38	Madassar Nazar	Kapil Dev	34
39	Williams *	Ghabri	42
40	Derek Parry *	Venkatraghaban	43
41	Larry Gomes *	Venkatraghaban	49
42	F. Bacchus *	Chandrashekhar	45
43	G. Boycott	Ghabri	48
44.	M. Hendriks	B. S. Bedi	50
45.	Beirstow *	Kapil Dev	50
46.	Whatmore	Dilip Doshi	53
47.	G. Yallop	Shiblal Yadab	55

48.	R. Darling +	Shiblal Yadab	55
49.	Mudassar Nazar	Dilip Doshi	59
50.	Imran Khan	Dilip Doshi	59
51.	Imran Khan *	K. Ghabri	59
52.	Zaheer Abbas	Kapil Dev	60
53.	J. Dyson	Kapil Dcv	64
54.	J. Dyson	Kapil Dev	65
55.	A. Border	Kapil Dev	65
56.	L. Cairns	Kapil Dev	67
57.	G. Troop	Rabi Shastri	67
58.	L. Cairns	Ravi Shastri	69
59.	I. Botham	Dilip Doshi	70
60.	B. Willis	Dilip Doshi	70
61.	C. Tavare *	Kapil Dev	70
62.	J. Emburey *	Madan Lal	70
63.	Graham Gooch	Rabi Shastri	71
64.	Geoff Boycott.	Kapil Dev	71
65.	Graham Dilley	Ravi Shastri	71
66.	Ian Botham	Kapil Dev	73
67.	C. Tavare	Dılip Doshi	75
68.	Derek Pringle	Dilip Doshi	76
69	Bob Willis	Dilip Doshi	77
70	S. De Silva	Madan Lal	79
71	Roy Dias	Rakesh Sukla	79
72	Mudassar Nazar	Kapil Dev	80

73	Mansur Akhtar	Kapil Dev	80
74	Javed Miandad	Madan Lal	80
75	Javed Miandad	Madan Lal	82
76	Sarfraz Nawaz	Kapil Dev	82
77	Larry Gomes	Venkatraghaban	87
78	Andy Roberts	Balbinder Sandhu	88
79	Gordon Greenidge	Madan Lal	89
80	Viv Richards	Venkatraghaban	89
81	Larry Gomes	Maninder Singh	96
82	Clive Lloyd *	Kapil Dev	96
83	M. Marshall	Shiblal Yadav	97
84	W. Daniel	Ravi Shastri	97
85	Gordon Greenidge	Ravi Shastri	99
86	Mudassar Nazar	Chetan Sharma	100
87	Ashrof Ali	A. Gaekwad	100
88	Tauseef Ahmed	Maninder Singh	100
89	Mahsin Khan	Chetan Sharma	101
90	Rabinson	Kapil Dev	103
91	Chris Cowdrey	Shibramkrishnan	103
92	Phil Edmonds	Chetan Sharma	104
93	Duleep Mendis	Maninder Singh	107
94	Ahangama	Maninder Singh	109
95	Dulcep Mendis *	Chetan Sharma	109
96	Bruce Reid	Kapil Dev	110
97	Geoff Marsh	Ravi Shastri	112

98	W. Slack *	Roger Binni	114
99	Radford	Chetan Sharma	115
100	David Gower *	Chetan Sharma	115
101	A. Border	Ravi Shastri	116
102	David Boon	Raju Kulkarni	118
103	Geoff Marsh	Raju Kulkarni	118
104	Ravi Ratnayeke *	Maninder Singh	120
105	Arjuna Ranatunga *	Maninder Singh	120
106	Wasim Akram	Shiblal Yadab	121
107	Soaib Mahammad	Mohinder Amarnath	123
108	Salim Zafar *	Maninder Singh	125

* Indicates "in the 2nd innings"

Records of Captaincy

Capt Against	No.	Won	Lost	Drawn	Century Scored.
W. Indies	6	1	—	5	4
England	14	2	3	9	1
New Zealand	4	1	1	2.	1
Australia	9	3	1	5	2
Pakistan	13	2	3	8	2
Sri Lanka	1	—	—	1	1
Total	47			30	11

Avg, of Success in Captaincy—51.06 and secured 21 st Place in the World Captaincy record.till Dec. '87

Serieses in which he led the team

Series	Against	Venue	Result in favokr of India
1976	New Zealand	New Z.	Won (1-0)
1978-79	West Indies	India	Won (1-0)
1979	Australia	India	Won (2-0)
1979-80	Pakistan	India	Won (2-0)
1980-81	Australia	Australia	Draw (1-1)
1981	New Zealand	New Zealand	Lost (0-1)
1981-82	England	India	Won (1-0)
1982	England	England	Lost (0-1)
1982	Sri Lanka	India	Draw (0-0)
1982-83	Pakistan	Pakistan	Lost (0-3)
1984	Pakistan	Pakistan	Draw (0-0)
1984-85	England	India	Lost (1-2)

He scored 3412 runs as Captain.

He suffered his first defeat as a Captain after 18th test. He scored 11 Centuries as a Captain of which six Tests drawn 3 won and 1 lost despite of his Centuries as Captain He won the first test under his own captaincy, in which he got a Century, Vs N. Z. in 1976. at Auckland. As a Captain he bowls 15.4 overs, 3 maiden, 45 runs, no wicket. Carried his bat through a complete innings once-as a Captair

'Idle Talks' about Gavaskars' Career

Somehow there are some statements about Sunil which are false as per details below :—

1. David Gower once told that it was difficult to get a lbw decision against Gavaskar in India. But out of 17 lbw decisions against him, 10 had been taken in India and 7 in other countries.

2. It was said that he got more runs in India. But in 65 tests he scored 5067 runs here and in 60 tests he scored 5055 runs abroad. Ot of 34 centuries 16 in India and 18 in other countries. Out of 108 catches 51 in India and 57 in other countries.

3. An usual conception is that G. R. Viswanath contributes more than Gavaskar in case of Indian victories are concerned. The contributions of both of them are given below during 17 test victories they have played together.

Name	Inn		Runs		Century Scored	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Gavaskar	17 times	15 times	798	538	4	2
Viswanath	17 times	14 times	692	537	2	1

India lost 25 test matches despite of both in the team.

Gavaskar scored 1781 Runs with 6 centuries, whereas Viswanath scored 1289 Runs with 5 centuries in those tests.

4. Again some people used to say that Gavaskar scored centuries during the dying moments of tests. This is also false. Among this 34 tons, 23 scored in first innings, 11 in the 2nd innings.

5. In critical conditions Gavaskar scored 4 centuries and 6 half centuries in 2nd innings and scored more runs in 2nd innings than in Ist innings.

6. Gavaskar refused to tour West Indies in 1980 which had been called off later on. A common rumour being spread all over the world that Sunil was afraid of West Indian fast bowlers. But he had scored most No of runs (2749 runs in 27 tests) with highest No of centuries (13) against West Indies.

Corrections :—Gavaskar played 108 (Not 107) one day matches and his average was 32.89 (not 35.05) (Page—101

In 1987 World Cup inaugural match against Pak. Sunil scored 32 runs.

World Records Created by Sunny

(Individual records)

1) Appeared in most number of Tests—125

2) The cricketer with most consecutive No of test appearances—106

3) The test batsman with highest run aggregate—10,122

4) The first test batsman to cross 10,000 landmark (in 124 tests, 212 innings).

5) The cricketer with most no. of test centuries—34

6) The cricketer with most no. of test half centuries—45

7) The cricketer to play most no. of test innings—214

8) The cricketer to open most no. of test innings—204

9) The cricketer to make fastest 1000 rnns in test history—in 78 days (Oct-16, 1978 to Jan 2, 1979) and in 6 tests only.

10) The cricketer to score 1000 runs or more in a calender year on four occasions—(1024 runs in 11 tests in 1976, 1044 in 9 tests in 1978, 1555 in 18 in 1979 and 1310 in 18 in 1983).

11) The only cricketer to hit a century in both innings of the same test thrice— 124 and 220 (Against WI at Port of Spain, 1970-71) 111 and 137 (Against Pak at Karachi, 1978-79) 107 and 182 * (Against WI at Calcutta 1978-79).

(12) The only cricketer to hit hundreds in three consecutive innings twice :—(i) 117 (Bridgetown) 124 and 220 (Port of Spain) against W. I in 1970-71,

(ii) 111 and 137 (Karachi) against Pak and 205 (Bombay) against W I. :—1978-79.

13) Only Cricketer to score 5000 test runs or more abroad ahead of Walter Hammon'ds 4245 :—(5055)

14) Only cricketer to topscore in both the completed innings of a test on five occasions:

i) 124 and 220 at Port of Spain vs W 1 in 1970-71

ii) 101 and 58 at Manchester Vs Eng in 1974.

iii) 38 and 71 at N. Delhi Vs Eng in 1976-77.

iv) 39 and 24 at Madras Vs. Eng in 1976-77.

v 111 and 137 at Karachi Vs. Pak in 1978-79.

15) Only cricketer to topscore in 58 Completed test innings.

16) Only cricketer to have the highest match aggregute on 36 occasions.

17) Only Cricketer to make 79 Scores of 50 or more runs (34 handreds and 45 half Centuries) in tests.

18) Most No. of test centuries as an opener :—34

19) Most No. of test runs an opener :—10,122

20) Most No of test halt Centuries as an Opener :—45

21) Most No of test century partnerships :—58

22) Most No of test century partnership as an opener (i. e.) for first wicket) :—22

23) Highest series aggregate by a debutant :—774 run in 4 tests Vs W. L. in 1970—71 Series.

24) Highest series aggregate by an opener :—774 runs in 4 tests Vs. W. I in 1970—71 series.

25) Highest series aggregate by any player against West Indies (774 runs in 4 tests Vs W. I. in 1970-71) (Actually his 732 runs in 6 tests Vs. W. I. in 1978-79 is also higher than the next man Patsy Hendren's 693 runs against W. I. in 1970-71 series.)

26) Only batsman to score three separate double hundreds against West Indies.

27) Only batsman to score 13 centuries against West Indies.

28) Only Batsman to score most no. of runs against West Indies :—2749

29) Only Cricketer to score four Consecutive centuries at two venues i) 124 and 220 (1970-76) 156 and 102 (1975 76) at Port of Spain, Queens Park Oval Stadiam.

ii) 119 (Vs NZ, 1976-77), 108 (Vs Eng, 1976-77), 205 (Vs W I. 1978-79), 123 (Vs Aust, 1979-80) at Wankhede Stadium, Bombay.

30) Highest No of Opening century partnerships with a player, Chetan Chauhan (10 times in 59 innings of 36 tests)

31) The Captain with most number of drawn tests, 30

32) Lost the toss for 9 consecutive times as a Captain

33) Most no of tours for an individual Cricketer :—22 times (W I—70-71, 75-76, 82-83, Eng—71, 74, 75, 79, 82, 83, 86, Aus—71-72, 77-78, 80-81, 85-86, Pak—78-79, 82-83, 84-85, SL-70-71, 85-86, 74. N. Z—75—76, 80—81)

Shared World Records

1) One of the four cricketers ever to score a century and double century in a test match. Others are Lowrence Rowe, Greg Chappell, Doug Walters.

2) One of the four cricketers to score a century on their first appearance against three different countries, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Others are Denis Compton, Ken Barrington, & Zaheer Abbas.

3) One of the three captains led against six different Countries. Others are Greg Chappell and Geoff Howarth,

4) One of three cricketers to score 1000 or more runs against four different countries. Others are Greg Chappell and Collin Cowdrey.

5) One of two cricketers to score 2000 or more runs against three different countries. Other is Clive Lloyd.

Records in Indian Cricket

1. Highest individual score by an Indian in a test innings—236 not out Vs W.I. at Madras, 1983-84.

2. Only cricketer to score a century against each test playing country.

3. Only cricketer to score centuries in four consecutive tests (108 Vs England, 1976-77, 113, 127-118 Vs Australia, 1977-78).

4. Had scored most runs in a test match, 344 Vs West Indies at Port of Spain, 1970-71.

5. Holds the highest away & home series aggregates :— 774 in W.I., 1970-71, & 732 Vs W.I. in India, 1978-79.

6. Had played the longest test innings—172 runs in 708 minutes against England at Bangalore, 1981-82, which is incidentally the longest innings also in Indian first-class cricket.

7. Had scored the most runs in a day's play—179 Vs England on the fifth day (221 at the Oval, 1979).

8. Only cricketer to carry his bat through a completed test, innings—127 * against Pakistan, Faisalabad, 1982-83.

9. Only cricketer to score four test double centuries.

10. He skippered India in most tests 47, including 22 consecutively.

11. Only cricketer to hold more than 100 test catches.

12. Only cricketer to score four centuries in a series twice (against W.I. in 1970-71 and 1978-79.)

13. Had opened India's batting and bowling in 4 tests.

14. Only cricketer to score 500 or more runs in a series on six occasions.

15. Had the highest individuals core by an Indian captain 205 against W.I. at Bombay (1978-79)

16. Apart from his world record aggregate against W.I. he had scored the most runs, against England (2483) Pakistan (1794), Australia (1500).

17. Highest score by an Indian batsman abroad Vs. England 221 at oval (1979).

18. Highest scores against West Indies (236 *) and Sri Lanka (155).

19. Holds India's first wicket record partnership against all countries except New Zealand—With Chetan Chauhan (213 against England, 192 against Australia, 153 against W.I.) With Arunlal (156 against Sri Lanka), with Srikanth (200 against Pakistan).

20. Holds Indian record partnership for the 2nd wicket, 344 against W.I. at Calcutta, with D. B. Vengsarkar in 1978-79 series.

Celebrity tributes to Sunny

"Dat little fella is going to get 10,000 runs"—Clyde Wallcott in 1971 after the debut series of Sunil.

"Those giants may have power but, we, these little fellows have our foot-work. Isn't it my boy ?"—Sir Don Bradman in his first introduction with Sunil in 1971-72 at Australia.

"A pocket sized battleship armed with an impenetrable defence and astonishing gun-powder. The bigger the battle, the better the performance."—Collin Cowdrey about Gavaskar.

"The right handed Gavaskar has all the attributes of a great opening batsman with an impeccable technique for playing fast bowling (though he is equally adept against spin), immense concentration and patience and stamina to build a large innings."—from the book "THE LORD TAVERNERS' FIFTY GREATEST, (Selectors—Trevor Bailey, Richie Benaud, Collin Cowdrey and Late Jim Laker.)

"As is obvious from Gavaskars' test records, he is capable of intense concentration and discipline. But he summons these virtues only when India is in troble or when he senses the chance of win. He is not one for making big scores just for the sake of records. When

he sets his sights high, he builds his innings with meticulous craftmanship, limiting himself to the strokes he plays best, drives through the cover, past the bowler and through midon and mid-wicket but when he lets his hair down, his range of shots and the power behind them are quite astonishing"—WISDEN.

"The chap is a good player. One to have won his ungrudging admiration would surely have been Sunil Gavaskar. I have a feeling that if he had been born English or Australian, many of the better judges would have been tempted to bracket him with Bradman. Gavaskar is not good as Bradman but very close, which automatically puts him in very highest class of batsmen of all time. He is a small, compact man, thicker set than Bradman, but of a similar height and like all true champions, can play off both feet with equal facility.

He uses a medium—weight bat and hits the ball hard enough with precise accuracy to beat the fieldsmen but not hard enough to knock it out of shape. He cuts, pulls and drives the half volley beautifully, often through the mid-wicket and to back of his natural accomplishments, he has the concentration, will—power and temperament of a record breaker. I admire too, the positive and quick movments of his feet."—Sir Leonerd Hutton in the book "Fifty years of Test Cricket."

"Without any doubt, Gavaskar is the best batsman of the present World"—Sir. Gary Sobers in 1978.

"Frankly speaking, I rate you as the best batsman of the World today, because you have handled the pace and spin with equal case. Viv is a good player but he is too much hard hitting." —Gary Sobers to Sunil in 1984 at Calcutta.

"Over the years, Sunil Gavaskar has delighted us not only with his skills but with his sportsmanship as well··· ···I would hava been proud to have played cricket with him..... He is a great player, the Ornament to the game."—Sir Don Bradman.

"The best event that had happened in Indian Cricket so far was the rise of Sunil Gavaskar. I cann't imagine a better perfectionist than him in test history."—Bishen Bedi, in search of his Ideal Indian Cricket Team,

"Even only a few in the World have the least required merit to follow Gavaskars' technique,"—Anshuman Gaekwad,

"Bowlers of the future, even those who has yet to born, will be punished with his bat."—Vijay Merchant about Sunil in 1972.

"I would have stood in the slips and let other bowl." —Keith Miller, when he was asked how he would bowl to Gavaskar.

"I am well aware of his fear about dog. Lloyd might have tried with some dogs to get him out, when his fast bowlers got tired to do so."—Murrey Hezcock, after Sunil's 29th century at Deihi.

"Sunny is a run machine. Just you give him a bat and be sure of runs, as you may sure to have a card after dropping the coin in a weighing machine."—Ajit Wadekar.

"In Yorkshire some people may not want Boycott in their county team. But for Bombay team evereone would cast his vote in favour of Sunny."—Shield Berry.

"Is his form detoriating ? May be. But it will take a lot of time to be in the ground from it's present height." —M. A. K. Pataudi after Sunil's 29th century.

"I personally would like to say that Sunny Gavaskar is the best. His records would speak for itself."—Vivian Richards.

"His surgery over English bowling was just with equal ease of an eminent surgeon, He seemed to had ample time for every stroke like all greats."—John Arnlott on the great innings of 221 at the Oval,

"The Indian combines Boycotts' steadiness and Greenidges' ability to keep the runs flowing."—Ian Botham about Gavaskar.

"Chappell and Viv are batsmen of rare class no doubt but Sunils' innings of 221 has shown us the technigue of attacking aloug with impenetrable defence through several hours, and this is possible only to a complete batsman. But Chappell and Viv are not of the same class."—Michael Melford after the Oval innings of 221.

"Great is a word frequently being used now-a-days. So I shall denote Sunil as "Greatest of the greats" I would suggest young crickters to watch hls stance, and technique You may not find a little sun light peeping in between his bat and pad"—Vijay Hazare.

"Gavaskar is my toughest opponent--as he never wants to be declared out. Personally I rate his wicket as the most valuable one."—Malcom Marshall.

"I am not so qualified yet to praise or critisize Sunil Gavaskar.—David Gower.

"Sunil is the best batsman of the World ahead of Viv Richards aud Greg Chappell"—Bob Willis in 1981.

"Sunny Gavaskar is one of those few Indians, who likes to regard Indias' prestige ahead of his own records."—Bishen Singh Bedi.

"Javed Miandad, Keith Fletcher, Ramesh Saxena, Brijesh Patel-all are good player against spin. But who is the

best ?·····Any spinner wonld have the same choice—Sunil Gavaskar—"—E.A-S- Prasanna

"I would suggest the Australian cricketers to follow the batting technique of Sunil Gavaskar"—Ian Chappell.

"If you try to be the Prime Minister of India, will you succeed ? I am not a mad at least."—M. Azharuddin on a question about his possibility of breaking the batting records of Sunil Gavaskar.

"Hei man ! You should consult a psychiatrist right now" —Dilip Vengsarkar on a question about his possibility of breaking the record of Gavaskars; 34 test centuries.

"Breathing is difficult without any oxygen in air and we would feel the absence of Sunil in Indian team after his retirement like that."—Pradeep Kr: Banerjee (National Football Coach of India)

' Sunil's batting against fast bowlers is the most pleasurable sight to me. I would not attack him with a bouncer, because he is a good hooker"—John Benaud.

"He knows when to attack, and a bowler must pray for Gods' grace only—during his attacking hours."—Pankaj Roy.

"Gavaskar is the hardest batsman to dismiss. It's very difficult to get him out without a champion delivery, of

which he may wonder about because, he has perfect technique and brilliant concentration with strong determination."—Imran Khan.

"Master of the masters"—Mustaq Ali.

"You may think of a cannon ball while watching a cross bat hook of Viv Richards over midwicket. Boycott may have had a magnificient stroke through backward point once or twice in an hour. Even Zaheer Abbas had taken some beautiful and smooth cover drives. But Sunil Gavaskar has never depended on a particular shot. He always likes to execute proper stroke with proper footwork on every delivery"—Frank Kitting.

"What a good physique he has and to remain at the topmost level one should have the same dedication to keep himself fit"—Dr. Sunil Tagore (physiotherapist) about Gavaskar.

In a pole to choose 100 cricketers by Kanameu Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Daily Mirror ot Australia, Gavaskar got highest votes,-87, Barry Richards-66, Gordon Greenidge-60, and Boycott-57.

"There is no way you can fault him. Getting him out is getting an Oyster out of it's shell."—Rodney Hogg.

"His well-wrought centuries reshaped the history of the game.,'—John Arnlott.

"Sunil is the best batsman as per technique and temperament are concerned—John Lever.

"Are you from Gavaskar land."—Altobelli, member of the Italian world cup football team in Mexico, when talking to Amiya Tarafder (Photo journalist from India).

"If I was to recommend a school boy to copy a modern master, I would go for Gavaskar rather than Viv Richards who, though a great player in every sense, depends enormously on his eagle eye. Richards is immensely strong and a joy to behold when he is on song and timing the ball sweetly, but I do not think he is quite as great as Gavaskar. Gavaskar plays straighter and more like Bradman."—Sir Leonerd Hutton.

"Perhaps the broadest bat of my time——belonged to Peter May. There were time when, for the bowlers, it seemed as he had the proverbial ban door in his hand. After May, a big broad man himself, I would be happy to nominate Gavaskar next in line."—Ted Dextre.

"Batsmen throughout the world prefer to take helmet now-a-days, except Sunil Gavaskar and Viv Richards. But remember, Viv had never faced the firey pace attacks of W.I."—Cricketer (Australia).

"Yes, now I am sure that I have not seen a better opener than him after Len Hutton"—Fredi Truman about Sunil's 188 at Lords', 1987.

"It was made with such touch and assurance, indeed with such mastery, as to make his retirement at the age of 38 seem altogether premature...the way he has fended off and sometimes turned to his advantage all the short

pitched bowling of the modern game has been one of the wonder of the cricket world.....If he must retire it is good to remember him as what he is rather than to have to recall what he was. He has been and I say it advisedly, one of history's great players."—John Woodcock in "The Times" about Sunil's retiremen'.

"Gavaskar thumped his pad in annoyance, the legendary concentration had broken momentarily, the victim of tiredness. But as far as he was concerned, the perfectionist had failed and he scarecely seemed to hear the ringing cheers of the standing ovation as he reached the pavilion gate."—Henry Blofeld in "The Independent" about Sunil's exit from Lords' after 188.

"Why he would retire right now? He still had four or five years of cricket with his present from."—Sir Don Bradman on the retirement of Gavaskar from cricket.

"Now we will realize his importance as an opening batsman."—Bapu Nadkarni, former Indian captain, after Gavaskars' retirement.

"Seeing Bradman in his last test was the most mournful incident of my life. The next to that was Gavaskars' words in the press conference on the day before yesterday —he was retiring—Why he is retiring don't know but I believe that he may go for 15,000 runs even now."—David Frieth.